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Exit polls:

Peretz landslide in Histadrut elections

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Incumbent Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz scored a landslide victory yesterday over MK Maxim Levy (Geshet) in the Histadrut elections, according to the predictions of exit polls published late last night by both television stations.

Peretz received 79% of the vote, compared to Levy's 21% according to Channel 1's poll, conducted by Teleset, and 75% compared to 25% for Levy, according to Channel 2's poll, conducted by Dr. Mina Zemah of the Dabaf Institute. A final vote count was not expected to be announced before this morning. Voter turnout among the estimated 600,000 Histadrut members was reported to be relatively low at about 42%, Israel Radio said.

It was the first Histadrut election win for Peretz who inherited his position from MK Haim Ramon (Labor). His triumph establishes Peretz as a prominent political figure, as well as a leader of the

Election marred by charges of cheating, Page 2

nation's workers.

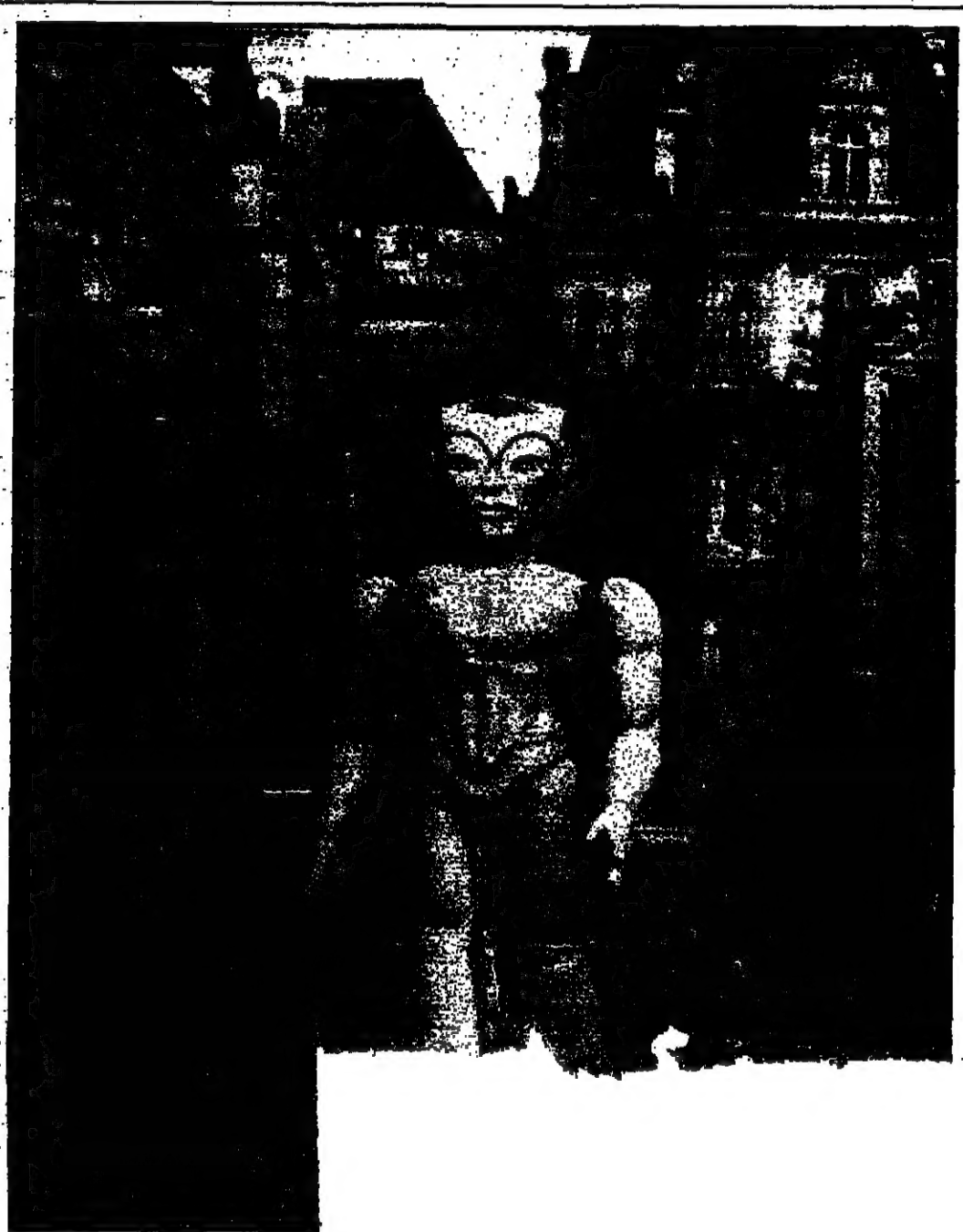
For Levy, the head of the Geshet-Meretz list, the loss was the result of one of his toughest political showdowns. Political observers said yesterday that Levy's defeat should not be underestimated, considering that he had taken on not only Peretz or Labor, but a massive "wall-to-wall" coalition including the Likud, Shas, and Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Peretz's campaign staff, who crowded his Tel Aviv headquarters eagerly awaiting the victor's arrival, burst into spontaneous singing and hugging late last night after the television projections were announced.

Histadrut Treasurer Shmuel Avital, also on Peretz's Am list, said "this proves Peretz is the number one workers leader in Israel. He is also the only one who has succeeded in uniting all the factions around him."

All Geshet-Meretz's leaders were gathered at their campaign headquarters, where Maxim Levy received the news with a grim face. "Our people were threatened, so perhaps they didn't tell the pollsters their real choice. I suggest we wait for the real results, and I'm sure I'll have a better score there," he said.

Levy's brother, MK David Levy, the former foreign minister, said that "forming the social camp was and still is justified and right. This is the first time two small parties have faced off against all the parties in Israel, and we're proud of it. Going together [Geshet and Meretz] was not a mistake - it would have been a mistake to do nothing and let that colossal coalition trample over workers' rights."



A giant figure named Ho para parade. Ho, which represents that converged for an evening Page 20.

Ready o

By ELLI WOHLGELERNT

Knesset elections, the Olympics, February 29 - these are some of the events that occur every four years. But none of them can match World Cup whoopee, which begins tonight as defending champion Brazil faces Scotland and Morocco takes on Norway.

A billion people, maybe two, will be watching on televisions around the world, and Israelis are no different than soccer-crazy fans anywhere else.

At the Aroma Cafe in Haifa, three screens will be provided for the expected crowd, two measuring 2 meters X 2 meters for inside customers, and one 4 X 6 outside for more fans. "We've got a satellite dish on the roof, so besides the 56 games live on Israel TV, we'll be able to show the eight other games as well," said owner Sara Treger.

"We're going to put curtains on the windows to block out the

then month as they are left stranded by their TV-hugging husbands?

Noam Semel, general manager of the Cameri Theater, issued a call to "the women of Israel to leave their husbands in front of the TV and come to Cameri shows every day during the World Cup."

He said there are 20 shows countrywide, including a new show opening Saturday night, *The Rebels* by Edna Mazia. However, he noted, Saturday night's show - when Holland plays Belgium - is sold out.

Of course, the most important thing is the TV itself. There has been a reported 15-20 percent increase in television sales dur-

screens of 29" and up. He noted that he had sold six 38" screens in the last week, instead of the usual average of one a week. He said sales of VCRs were also up about 20%. And everyone has one demand: deliver it by today's opening.

"Some people come in and say, 'I came to buy a TV, but don't ask me if I'm buying it for the World Cup,'" said Yabav. "I don't know why they are embarrassed to say it's for the World Cup. Some men have come in to get a second TV for their wives to watch; one guy even came in and said he needed a TV because his wife is the soccer fan."

PM weighs pullback referendum

By JAY BUSHINSKY and MARILYN HENRY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is considering holding a national referendum on the US-brokered deal for a 15 percent IDF pullback in the West Bank, a spokesman said yesterday.

Netanyahu himself hinted at the idea in an Israel Radio interview in which he said: "It is essential that there be broad public support so that the rifts in the nation will heal and thereby achieve domestic peace, not only external peace."

Netanyahu communications director David Bar-Illan told The Associated Press that a final decision about a referendum would be made over the next few days.

"My feeling is that a vote will probably be on a package regarding the present discussions, which will include Palestinian compliance and the total scope of withdrawals by Israel before final-status decisions are made," Bar-Illan said.

that the referendum plan is just a tactic to buy time.

One of them, Hassan Asfour, was quoted by the AP as saying that Netanyahu is using it as an excuse to refrain from carrying out withdrawals to which Israel already is committed.

But in the radio interview, Netanyahu said security is his overriding concern.

"My considerations are over what is the best agreement from the point of view of security, settlement, and the national interest," he said. "And of course that there will be reciprocity - that the Palestinians will fulfill their commitments."

In a subsequent television appearance the prime minister cited the long-pending revision of the Palestinian Covenant to expunge its clauses that call for Israel's destruction.

"If Chairman Yasser Arafat cannot convene the Palestinian National Council to this end, what point is there in trying to make peace?" he said.

Netanyahu also told US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Near East and Africa Judith Barnett in a meeting yesterday:

"The articles of the covenant must be completely changed. How can Israel be expected to make further concessions to the Palestinian Authority, when it refuses to say that the covenant calling for Israel's destruction has been rescinded? This is not a legal question, but a logical one. If Arafat cannot convene the Palestine National Council in

order to say that the [articles calling for the] destruction of Israel have been rescinded, then what kind of peace do we have? He must do this, it is a logical step, and it is also acceptable to the Israeli public and all those who seek peace. He must rescind the covenant, period."

In New York, Clinton said that Israel should move quickly to the final-status talks with the Palestinians, according to the Israeli Mission to the UN.

At the UN on Monday for a special international session about drug policy, Clinton spotted Israeli envoy Dore Gold as he was leaving the General Assembly chamber.

He signaled Gold to join him and said "he hoped that - the sooner the better - we would move to final-status talks and stop arguing over the interim agreement," the spokesman at the Israeli Mission said. The spokesman stressed that the UN encounter was informal and not an official notice by the US.

Clinton was accompanied by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who made no comment, the spokesman said.

In Washington, peace envoy Dennis Ross told Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani that, while the US cannot be a substitute for direct contact between the parties, there will be no agreement without American involvement, especially on a permanent agreement.

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Haig backs Sharon in Lebanon libel suit

By DAN IZENBERG

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday asked the Supreme Court to accept new evidence allegedly proving that prime minister Menachem Begin knew long in advance of the plans to send the IDF into Lebanon up to the southern suburbs of Beirut.

The new evidence comes in the form of an affidavit by former US secretary of state Alexander Haig, who has testified to the fact that Begin told him in October

1981 that the army had started plans for an incursion into Lebanon and that the troops would reach the approaches to Beirut.

In January, Sharon appealed a decision by Tel Aviv District Court, which had rejected his libel suit against Ha'aretz and its columnist, Uzi Benziman. Benziman wrote that Sharon had deceived Begin, who had only approved a plan to send Israeli troops 40 kilometers north of the border.

The Lebanese invasion took place in June 1982, when Sharon served as defense minister. The appeal included the memorandum of a discussion which took place among Sharon, Haig, and other officials in May 1982, during which Haig mentioned the conversation with Begin.

See SHARON, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Palestinian killed by IDF near Gaza settlement

A Palestinian man died of his wounds after being shot by IDF troops as he attempted to enter the Gush Katif settlement Morag late last night, settlers said. The IDF Spokesman said the incident was being investigated. In another incident last night, shots were fired at an Israeli vehicle on the Trans-Judea Highway bypass. No one was injured but settlers said two bullets penetrated the vehicle.

The IDF Spokesman said that several shots were also fired at an Israeli vehicle from a passing car close to Adura near Hebron. The spokesman said no one was injured in the incident and IDF troops searched the area. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK meets Mahmoud Abbas

Seeking to acquaint himself with the Palestinian leadership, MK Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) met yesterday with PLO Executive Committee Secretary Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah yesterday.

Before the meeting began, Bronfman said: "I am not part of a negotiating team, but am just a coalition party member seeking to meet the Palestinian leadership and gain a better understanding." *Margot Dudkevitch and Mohammed Najib*

Bentsur calls on Russia to back Lebanon pullout

Russia was urged yesterday by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur to continue supporting Israel's offer to withdraw from southern Lebanon's security zone in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

During the first day of dialogue in Moscow between Israeli and Russian diplomats, Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Posavlyuk also was thanked by Bentsur for "the Russian effort regarding Israel's prisoners of war and missing soldiers." Posavlyuk said Russia is interested in playing a leading role in the peace process and that it is prepared to host the multilateral talks steering committee "when conditions for this are right." *Jay Bushinsky*

Australian foreign minister visits today

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer is due to arrive today for a two-day visit that is expected to include meetings with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and MK Yossi Beilin (Labor). He is also planning to speak before the Israel-Australian Chamber of Commerce. After leaving Israel on Friday, Downer is scheduled to fly to Egypt. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Teenager, woman run over and killed

A 17-year-old youth was run over and killed near Ganot Junction yesterday evening. Police said he was hit as he ran across the road by a truck driven by a 26-year-old from Jerusalem. The driver was detained by police.

A 31-year-old woman was killed yesterday in Jerusalem when she was struck by a car as she crossed the street. The driver, who was described as young, was reportedly speeding.

The victim, Yarden Shalom, died of her injuries at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, after being evacuated by a Magen David Adom ambulance from Derech Hebron. She was married and the mother of two.

The driver, from Baka al-Gharbiya, was lightly wounded and was treated at Shaarei Zedek Hospital. Jerusalem police are investigating the circumstances of the accident. *Itim*

Nahal Taninim Reserve damaged by arson

Suspected arson caused extensive damage yesterday to flora and fauna in the Nahal Taninim Nature Reserve near Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael. Officials of the Nature Reserves-National Parks Authority said investigators had determined that the fire - the fifth in the area in the past month - appeared to have been started deliberately. *David Rudge*

Mubarak to Egyptian, Israeli peace activists: I don't trust Netanyahu

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told a meeting of Israeli and Egyptian peace activists in Cairo yesterday that he did not trust Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and was pessimistic about the peace process.

A delegation of Peace Now activists currently in Cairo to strengthen ties with their Egyptian counterparts, the Egyptian Peace Movement, signed a joint statement yesterday.

Mubarak stressed the urgency of solving the current deadlock as soon as possible, adding that if it continued to drag on it will play against both sides. Mubarak said he told Netanyahu "you are a nice person, but I don't trust you."

The joint statement signed by the activists calls for allowing the Palestinians the right of self-determination and the establishment of a state alongside Israel.

In addition, the pre-June 5, 1967 borders should constitute the guid-

ing lines for the determination of permanent borders between Israel and the Palestinian state and that mutual and agreed border adjustments will be introduced to address the needs of both sides.

The geographical continuity of territory in the West Bank and Gaza must be guaranteed and free and immediate passages set up in these areas.

Relating to the settlers, the statement said settlers in locations which after the determination of the borders fall within the Palestinian state will be able to return to Israel and receive appropriate compensation from the Israeli government.

The statement also called for both sides to refrain from engaging in violence or terrorist activities against civilians. Jerusalem will remain a united city but two capitals will exist within the municipal area - "the capital of Israel in the Jewish areas and the capital of Palestine in the Arab areas."

Shahak: Hizbullah views debate over pullout as Israel's weakness

By LIAT COLLINS and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Chief-of-General-Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reportedly said yesterday that Hizbullah sees the debate in Israel over unilateral withdrawal from south Lebanon as a weakness and an incentive to step up attacks against the IDF.

Shahak was quoted from a closed-door meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

He later told parliamentary reporters, however, that the discussion about a withdrawal is legitimate and that Brig.-Gen. Erez Gerstein, the head of the IDF liaison unit with south Lebanon, should not have criticized the pro-withdrawal movements.

Referring to Gerstein's remarks to military reporters on Monday, Shahak said:

"I assume he said [this] out of some feelings of difficulty and pain and the way he sees things as the commander of soldiers serving in south Lebanon."

Shahak added that he could "guess what was behind these words but I don't think they should have been said. Statements by people in Israel regarding Lebanon, as I have said more than once, are legitimate. There is an argument and it is legitimate. Ultimately we'll have to reach decisions and draw conclusions."

Several MKs condemned Gerstein yesterday.

MK Haim Ramon (Labor) and Ran Cohen (Meretz) demanded his removal. MK Yael Dayan (Labor) demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai bring Gerstein before a disciplinary tribunal.

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) argued that Israel's strength is based on holding open discussion.

MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor), a former head of the south Lebanon liaison unit, spoke in Gerstein's defense.

Sneh said that "Gerstein spoke out on a subject that is within his jurisdiction as the person responsible for the security zone and the soldiers serving in south Lebanon and when people interfere with



Members of the Four Mothers movement stage a protest yesterday at the Good Fence while one woman hands a leaflet calling for an end to south Lebanon bloodletting to a Lebanese worker as he crosses into Metulla. (Photo: David Rudge/Photo: Anita Shapiro)

him doing this, it is his duty, not his right, to tell the truth.

"There is hypocrisy here because had he said something they wanted to hear, all the politicians who are criticizing him would be praising him for his moral courage. It is isn't by chance that all those who have served in this position oppose unilateral withdrawal," Sneh continued.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) said that officers should be barred from speaking out on political issues.

He also condemned the practice of reserve officers signing advertisements about political issues citing their ranks and units.

"I personally agree with every

word [Gerstein] said. But I rule out his right as an officer to say them. The IDF should be above political argument," Landau said.

In the committee meeting, Shahak reportedly said that although Gerstein's statements were "out of line and redundant" he would not be dismissed.

He also recalled his own feelings as an officer traveling to south Lebanon during the 1982 Operation Peace for Galilee and seeing placards with slogans like: "Those who serve in Lebanon are suckers."

Gerstein had initially made his remarks in an off-the-record briefing on Monday. Later he surprised reporters by speaking into a microphone, despite efforts by Lt-

Col. Ofer Lefler, a senior officer in the IDF's Spokesman's office, to dissuade him from doing so.

It was not the first time that the outspoken Gerstein has been controversial.

A few months ago, Gerstein was quoted saying to a closed forum of senior IDF officers that "the blood of IDF soldiers is no less red than that of the residents of Galilee."

Shahak recently warned IDF commanders to keep their opinions to themselves, after Maj-

Gen. Matan Vilnai criticized his not being chosen as Shahak's successor and following statements by Brig.-Gen. Ya'akov Amidror, Mordechai's military aide, who

called secular Israelis "Hebrew-speaking gentiles."

Former OC Northern Command Yossi Peled called for dismissing officers who speak out of place. "People understand actions better than words," he said.

During Operation Grapes of Wrath two years ago, one of Gerstein's predecessors, Brig.-Gen. Giora Inbar, also got into trouble for saying that he "would not let the politicians stop the operation before" the IDF had completed its goals.

Shahak dismissed Inbar. But with less than a month left to serve in office, it is believed unlikely that Shahak will take similar action against Gerstein.

Shahak warns against drawn-out withdrawal stages

By LIAT COLLINS

In his last appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak warned that a long drawn-out interim stage between the redeployment and the final status agreement could cause a complicated security situation in Judea and Samaria.

Shahak said there is a "potential" for confrontation in Judea and Samaria and added that events there will be affected by the nature of the negotiations currently being carried out.

There is currently a waiting period to see where the negotiations are heading and what they mean, he said.

Much of his final meeting was dedicated to the defense budget and warnings against possible cuts. "With the budget today in its current form it is impossible to achieve security," Shahak reportedly said. "If there is not a change in the long term, the IDF will have to lower its security standards. This will harm deterrence and be a gift to our ene-

mies."

He said without a change in the defense budget the IDF will have to take difficult decisions regarding manpower.

Regarding Lebanon, he said that although there has been no drastic change, Israel has detected an improvement in Hizbullah's means and capabilities. He said the IDF has also improved its operations in Lebanon.

He warned, however, that the fighting there is complicated and would continue to involve casualties.

He said there had been a rise in the monthly numbers of incidents since January this year compared to 1997. Last month there were 180 incidents, he said.

The Lebanese government cannot reach a practical decision without Syria's approval, Shahak said. Syria will continue to be the key to the Lebanese question, because it has political and economic interests there.

The committee praised Shahak's work as chief-of-general-staff and held a farewell luncheon for him in the MKs' cafeteria.

PM

Continued from Page 1

Israeli officials quoted Ross as saying it would be easier to make headway if Netanyahu and Arafat would meet, and that they lack confidence in one another. Ross was said to regret the stalemate which has hamstrung the negotiating process for the past five months.

"My impression is that Ross is performing difficult and complicated work," Kahalani said after the meeting Monday at the Israeli Consulate. "I believe that American mediation is a good thing, but we have become dependent on the US and that is not good."

Ross spoke of a need for a continuing American role, "and there will be. There are not going to be agreements without a continuing American role." But, Ross added, there must be communication between the parties. "There is no substitute for that. We cannot substitute for what they must, over time, be able to do themselves."

According to Ross, "The reality is there has been a stalemate for 15 months. What we're trying to do is see if we can end that stalemate, and we believe it's possible."

The differences between the parties "are not wide, but we have not been able to overcome them," Ross said. "As long as we believe that it's possible to overcome them, we are going to continue the efforts," he said. "Our objective is to produce a breakthrough if we can. We still believe that's possible, we think the gaps that remain are certainly bridgeable and we're working very hard to see if we can, in fact, bridge them."

Kahalani said that the scale of the third phase of redeployment cannot be forced on Israel, and

that the parties should go directly to permanent-status talks.

Meanwhile, a senior US official in Washington said yesterday that the Clinton administration is looking to Jordan's King Hussein to help quell calls in the Arab world for a summit on the frozen Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Hussein might meet with President Bill Clinton next week, a Jordanian embassy official said.

"The king has played a very supportive role in the [peace] process, not only with Israel but with the Arab world," the US official said. "We certainly hope that that continues. Now is not the time for a negative, hostile Arab reaction," the official said. "I think the king is doing his best to have a moderate Arab reaction going."

The monarch was due to arrive in Washington last night for a private visit centering on a family event in Boston and his regular medical examination at Minnesota's Mayo Clinic, the embassy official said.

Jewish settlers, meanwhile, vowed yesterday to renew their campaign to topple the government, to stage protests outside government officials' homes, and to string banners across intersections if Netanyahu agrees to a further withdrawal.

At an emergency meeting Sunday night, the settlers entitled their new campaign "The struggle of the Land of Israel." The meeting was attended by Land of Israel Front leader MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), Beit El Mayor Uri Ariel, Ya'acov Katz, a member of the recently established Teluma movement, representatives of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, and the Gamla Shall Not Fall Again group.

Hillel Kutler and Margot Dudkevitch contributed to this report.

SHARON

Continued from Page 1

According to Sharon and his lawyer, Dov Weissglass, the memorandum came to light recently - after the appeal to the Supreme Court had been lodged - due to the end of a moratorium on the publication of official US government papers of that year.

After the memorandum was released, Sharon asked Haig to file an affidavit testifying to its veracity.

Haig wrote: "At the funeral of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in October 1981, Prime Minister Begin told me for the first time that Israel had begun planning a move into Lebanon. Thereafter, on several occasions, Begin made clear to me the depths of his feelings that if the PLO threatened Israel, Israel would have no choice but to respond aggressively in Lebanon. Specifically, Begin advised me that a large-scale force would advance from the Israeli border to the southern suburbs of Beirut. Its target would be the PLO infrastructure."

Haig also confirmed in the affidavit that the memorandum accurately reflected his conversation with Sharon less than two weeks before the Lebanese invasion, during which Haig told Sharon about Begin's remarks regarding the planned advance.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Visiting G.A.E. members from Germany and Seattle, Wa., U.S.A.

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Histadrut vote subdued even in 'red' city

DAVID HUDGE

The biggest battle in the Histadrut elections yesterday did not appear to be between the leading candidates, Chairman Amir Peretz and MK Maxim Levy, but in generating sufficient interest to get people out to vote.

Even in the so-called "red" city of Haifa, the biggest single district in the Histadrut with over 71,000 eligible voters - the election was a subdued affair.

A few cars with stickers and flags, as well as posters, primarily outside polling stations, displaying the photogenic virtues of the respective candidates, were the only signs of campaign fever.

"Anybody who votes in these elections is a sucker," said veteran Histadrut member Shimon Edan, 53, a former employee of the Vulcan engineering firm.

He left there several years ago when his section was dismantled and moved from Haifa to Karmiel.

"I never voted before, even though I was a member of the works committee, because I saw the money that was wasted and the way the Histadrut fired workers from its own companies," said Edan, who now runs a stationery store in Haifa's French Carmel district.

"I would certainly not vote now, even though I'm still entitled to," he added.

By contrast, Yigal Fleit, 33, who immigrated from the former Soviet Union seven years ago,

went to the Sprinkak polling station to vote.

But he found he was ineligible because his membership fees had not been fully paid.

"It's a pity because I really wanted to vote. When I first came to Israel I didn't think much about the unions, especially after what we had experienced in the Soviet Union," said Fleit, a physical exercise instructor.

The Histadrut, however, helped me when I needed help and I wanted to help them," he explained. "I think it has an important role to play today to safeguard jobs and the rights of workers - particularly when unemployment is rising and factories and businesses are closing," he said.

His comments were echoed by a young volunteer at the polling station, 18-year-old David Salama, working for Peretz's Am list. Am is a coalition of Labor, Likud, Shas, Yisrael Ba'Aliya and the Arab Democratic Party.

"The elections should be important to people because the Histadrut is the strength and backbone of the workers," said Salama. "Without it, employers would be able to do what they like."

Baruch Zaitz, the incumbent chairman of the Histadrut's Haifa district, and his rival for the post from the Geshet-Meretz list, Michel Almaliah, a former Histadrut leader, toured polling stations in the city and the bay-side suburbs.

Histadrut polls marred by missing ballots, charges of cheating

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The Histadrut elections got off to a rocky start yesterday when several polling stations failed to open, while some officials reported that voting slips were missing and the parties accused each other of cheating. Some candidates urged that the polling be canceled due to the irregularities.

In the elections, up to 600,000 eligible voters were casting ballots at 1,321 polling booths to select a new Histadrut chairman, 2001 Histadrut convention members, a Naamat chairperson and 901 Naamat central committee members.

MK David Levy (Likud), the former foreign minister, whose brother Maxim ran as Geshet-Meretz's candidate for Histadrut leader, accused competitors of "using intimidation techniques which I thought had passed from the world."

"They're hiding voting slips or covering them with others, they're threatening our candidates, and bringing voters to the polls in organized transports," Levy said.

Levy, who toured the polls to help Maxim, said that four men were caught at one station trying to vote for Naamat.

"You have to see it to believe it," said Levy. He charged that incumbent Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz's Am list was "taking advantage of the fact that the

polling supervisors belong to the apparatus, which they control. It's third world tactics."

MK Anat Maor, Geshet-Meretz's candidate for Naamat chairperson, urged that the elections be called off after finding that some ballot boxes had been emptied of voting slips for the Geshet-Meretz party called Haver.

Am people accused Haver members of making up accusations to cover up for their expected defeat.

The central elections committee at Histadrut headquarters in Tel Aviv were inundated with complaints about disorders. It had no fewer than four million voting slips printed yesterday to be sent to polling stations throughout the country.

Thousands of kibbutz members found out only yesterday they were no longer eligible to vote as a result of a prolonged legal battle with the Histadrut. Among them were about 15,000 angry and frustrated members of 65 United Kibbutz Movement kibbutzim.

In the spirit of the times, both Peretz and Levy appeared at the polls with their wives, holding hands, smiling to the cameras and making confident statements.

Peretz cast his ballot with his wife Ahlana in his home town of Sderot. The mayor, David Buskila, was Peretz's campaign manager.

While touring polling stations, Peretz ran into a supporter at the



A Histadrut member casts a ballot yesterday at a Jerusalem polling station.

(Brian Hessler)

Ramat Aviv booth: former prime minister MK Shimon Peres.

Peres said that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak "should take lessons from Peretz, for the way he managed to form a coalition around him of Labor, the Likud and Shas."

After casting his vote in Lod,

Maxim Levy called on all Histadrut members to exercise their right to vote. "By now Israel's workers know already what a social catastrophe is happening, and that these elections are their battle," he said.

A group of Oz members, the list formed by the large unions, tried to break into Histadrut headquar-

ters in the morning in protest against the problems at polling stations. At the Israel Aircraft Industries polls failed to open on time.

"Peretz may win, but if we find he resorted to these tactics he will find himself without a Histadrut. We won't be there," an Oz member said.

Crackdown on illegal arms trafficking

By DAVID HUDGE

Police have uncovered a network of Israeli Arabs and Palestinians involved in illegal arms trafficking following intensive investigations that began nine months ago.

The case had been subject to a publicity ban imposed by the Tiberias Magistrates Court which was only lifted yesterday.

During the course of the inquiries, led by the head of the Ha'amakim district's Criminal

Investigations Department Supt. Eli Litman, police seized 15 different kinds of weapons.

They included eight pistols, as well as Uzi sub-machine guns and four Kalashnikov rifles. Some of the weapons apparently originated in Jordan and others in the territories.

Police sources said the indications were that the weapons were intended for criminal purposes, although the possibility of them being used in terrorist activities could not be entirely

ruled out.

The price for the weapons ranged from between NIS 8,000 and NIS 10,000, with transactions apparently taking place among Israeli Arabs themselves, as well as between them and dealers in the territories.

Some 30 suspects, mainly from Kafr Kana, near Nazareth, as well as the nearby villages of Turan and Mash'had, were arrested and questioned during the course of the widespread inquiries, as well as two

Palestinians.

There has been growing concern in the police and security forces about the quantity of illegal weapons that appears to be coming into the country and finding its way into the hands of Israeli Arabs and other elements.

Evidence of the proliferation and use of guns has been seen in recent clashes between family clans in Arab villages in the North in which a number of people have been killed and others wounded.

Mt. of Olives yeshiva, Arab housing allowed to expand

By ELI WOHLGELER

A zoning change on land owned by the Beit Orot Yeshiva on the Mount of Olives will allow the yeshiva to build housing units on the site.

The change was approved yesterday by the Interior Ministry, which also approved plans to allocate a spot on eastern side of the Mount of Olives for an Arab school, and a municipal plan to build 100 housing units for Palestinians in the adjacent A-Tur neighborhood.

Plans for the yeshiva's expansion - which is opposed by Palestinians and members of Peace Now - include building a dormitory for the 100 students there now, as well as housing units.

A municipal spokesman said the plan was first presented in 1994 to the city planning commission, which approved it in September of that year and then sent it on to the Interior Ministry, which only now approved it.

Haim Silverstein, executive director of the yeshiva, which is

located next to the Mormon Center, said plans call for expanding enrollment to 250 students, and after that to enlarge the dormitory, which at present has room for 40 students, followed by housing units.

"I'd like to see on the Mount of Olives a large, vibrant, and successful neighborhood, with Jewish men, women, and children walking 'round' safely in this area," he said. "We're returning to an area that is holy and sacred in Jewish history."

But Peace Now sees the approval as damaging relations in the city between Arabs and Israelis.

"The Interior Ministry is joining with the extreme right-wing and Ateret Cohanim to demolish the peace process totally," said spokeswoman Hagit Yaari. "This permission to build there is another step to a bloody confrontation in Jerusalem and the occupied territories."

Yaari said the land allocated for the Arab girl's school "was confiscated Arab land that is only now being turned over to build a

girl's school, as part of the deal allowing the expansion of the yeshiva."

Mohammed Najib adds: Palestinian Authority cabinet secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said the decision to allow the construction of some 58 apartments at Beit Orot is proof of the continued Israeli aggression and the intent to empty Jerusalem of its Arab residents. He added that it is "clear" that the Jerusalem Municipality supports settlement construction and is obviously implementing a government decision.

PLC Speaker Ahmed Qurei said it is inconceivable that Israel continues violating the agreements and warned that such acts will lead to violence. Recalling the outbreak of violence when construction began at Har Homa, he charged: "We will not accept that under any circumstances, and such a step will lead to violence."

He called on the PA to organize protests and added: "The Israeli government should understand that, if it still wants the peace, that the peace isn't violations."

RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Direct election and the constitution

In the Knesset, there are four times more parties than in the British parliament, but "we are very far from British parliamentary democracy," wrote Ya'akov Gochberg in *Vesti*.

Many of these small sectorial parties are "not political entities but lobbying groups." Consequently, our prime minister cannot carry out "logical policy but is forced to satisfy the wishes of his coalition parties which often are incompatible."

There is a permanent threat of overthrowing the government. The only way to improve the situation, said Gochberg, is "not to abolish the law of direct elections for prime minister but to change it to the American model, where the head of state, who 'got his power from the people, cannot be dismissed until the end of his term and can fulfill his pre-election obligations."

Such a model will bring about a division of legislative and executive authorities, so the Knesset can attend to its primary task job of making laws. The lobbyist parties would lose their opportunity to dictate their demands to the PM and will do "the work they have to."

In *Novosti Nedeli*, Pavel Volin expressed his opinion that sepa-

rate elections of Knesset members and a prime minister presents "the essence of Israeli democracy," when the voter has the opportunity to send to the Knesset "one's own candidate: Russians, Moroccans, Orthodox."

But he also agreed that the main defect of such a system is that a premier becomes the object of manipulation. The way out of this, he wrote, is "to have a constitution which should be accepted by all nations, which will express the national interest."

The current status quo was established at the time of the creation of the state, but now Israelis live completely differently. A stable structure requires a combination of a developed democracy and strong government authority.

Yosef Mendeleovich

Without the Zionist Forum - the largest organization of immigrants from the USSR, founded ten years ago - the creation of the Yisrael Ba'Aliya party would have been impossible, wrote Uri Kon in *Novosti Nedeli*.

After a great success by this party in the Knesset elections, the interest in the Forum by Russian leaders of Yisrael Ba'Aliya, as well as Likud, decreased. In its recent elections, Yosef Mendeleovich, an active member of Mafdal, was elected president. He defeated Yuli

Kosharovskiy, the candidate of the joint Likud and Yisrael Ba'Aliya.

The unexpected victory of Mendeleovich, a popular former prisoner of Zion, was achieved by the declaration of his non-partisan position. His election was the first defeat of Yisrael Ba'Aliya, which, said Kon, made their way by "using nomenclature candidates."

Mendeleovich, in an interview with *Sas Flax* in *Novosti Nedeli*, said that as a member of Mafdal, he is willing to cooperate with everyone. He stressed the importance of non-partisan grassroots organizations which "will not give parties the power to rule the country." The main task of the Forum, he said, is "to fight for civil and social rights, strengthen ties with Russian immigrant society, and increase education of Jewish as well as general cultural values."

Post-Zionism

The global problems of modern mankind demand convergence of all nations in a unified world society. "The Jewish national idea of Zionism seems like an anachronism in light of this prevailing tendency," wrote Abram

Solomonik in *Vesti*. It raises a crucial question, he added, of whether "we have to build national ghetto as it was in galut" or to build a "modern democratic state oriented in cooperation with other countries."

The nationalism that "caused two world wars leads to the full destruction of humankind," said the author. Even if the Jewish national idea and Jewish religion were the only anchors for our revival in 2,000 years of wandering, now they are "counterproductive to the natural development of the process of our national history."

Alexander Jacobson, a member of the board of Meretz, presented a different view in *Vesti*, saying that the historic mission of Zionism will not be fulfilled unless the Jewish Diaspora keeps its vital ties with Israel.

He insisted that Zionist ideology is not contradictory to democracy and stressed that classical religious Zionism "was more democratic and tolerant" than the current Israeli national-religious camp.

It "did not claim that the achievements of modern civilization, such as personal freedom and equality of rights, are 'goyshe gadgets,'" Jacobson wrote.

Bidding war over property near Har Homa

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Israeli, Palestinian, and Jordanian elements have all made bids for the property owned by the Greek Orthodox Church surrounding the Mar Elias Monastery adjacent to Har Homa, a senior church official said yesterday.

Metropolitan Timothy, secretary of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate, expressed indignation at a report in yesterday's *Yediot Aharonot*, which quoted him as saying the land at Mar Elias had been leased to a Canadian-based group.

"I gave no hint that the Mar Elias property has been leased or that there was any deal," Timothy said, adding that he had only described a transaction in which 16 dunams (four acres) in Jaffa belonging to the patriarchate had been leased in 1989.

Timothy also expressed indignation at veiled threats against the life of Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I and claims that the patriarch had no right to dispose of property owned by the patriarchate as he saw fit.

The paper had quoted Bassem Abu-Sharif, former spokesman for Palestinian Authority Chairman

Yasser Arafat, as saying the patriarch's life was in danger because of the sale of land belonging to the Palestinians.

Timothy said that the Patriarchate of Jerusalem is the owner of all its property and has the right to develop it for the benefit of the Church and its community.

He said that any decision taken by the patriarch would be with the approval of the church's Holy Synod.

"There have been many proposals from all sides - Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian - but the patriarch did not bring any

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NEWS

in brief

Bill would oblige acting to save a life

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday approved the final draft of a bill obliging an individual to help any person he comes across whose life is under immediate threat.

"The bill establishes a new and positive norm in keeping with Jewish morality, whereby a person may not ignore the distress of his fellow man and that doing so constitutes a violation of the law," said committee chairman Hanan Porat (NRP), who initiated the bill.

According to the proposal, a person will be seen to have upheld the law if he alerts the relevant authorities, such as the police or Magen David Adom.

Dan Izenberg

State appeals election cheat's sentence

The State Attorney yesterday appealed to the Jerusalem District Court against the allegedly light sentence handed out to Yoseph Hager, who was convicted of cheating in the 1996 national elections and escaping arrest.

Last month, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court sentenced Hager to three months in jail and six months suspended. Hager was convicted of dropping two ballots each into the ballot box the vote for prime minister and the vote the Knesset list. When a policeman detained him, dozens of supporters, who were waiting outside the polling station, surrounded the policeman and used force to extricate Hager.

In the appeal, the State Attorney wrote that the law provides for a punishment of up to two years for Hager's act, and asked the court to increase the sentence to as close to the maximum as possible.

Dan Izenberg

Three-day remand for lawyer Nurit Buchnik

The Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday extended by three days the remand of attorney Nurit Buchnik, who is suspected of conspiracy in the attempted murder on May 5 of gangland figure Roni Harari in a Givatayim cafe.

Judge Nira Lidsky said that she had taken the suspect's poor health into account in deciding that she should be held only until Thursday.

Buchnik, 28, of Moshav Zeitun, is suspected of passing messages from gang members to her boyfriend Yitzhak (Hishi) Hadif of the Pardes Katz gang, when she visited him in jail. Hadif is allegedly behind the attempted murder.

Iim

Secondary school teachers cancel strike

The secondary teachers' union said yesterday it was canceling a strike planned for today. The strike had been announced a day after Sunday's strike by elementary school teachers.

Ron Erez, the chairman of the Secondary School Teachers' Union, said he decided to call off today's action after he was assured by Education Ministry officials that there were no plans to fire hundreds of teachers as the union had feared.

Iim

Eitan's helicopter makes emergency landing

A helicopter transporting Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan was forced to make an emergency landing yesterday near Kibbutz Ashdot Ya'acov due to a malfunction.

Eitan was on his way to Jerusalem from a meeting in the North with Jordan's Agriculture Minister. The flight was resumed after repairs were done on the helicopter.

Iim

Health fund must pay NIS 2.6m. for delay

Kupat Holim Clalit will pay NIS 2.6 million in compensation to an eight-year-old girl who suffered cerebral palsy as a result of delay in performing a cesarean section. Her mother had a high-risk pregnancy due to high blood pressure. The Haifa District Court yesterday found in favor of the family and against Clalit's Ha'emek Hospital in Afula. The family, whose daughter suffered 100% disability, had originally demanded NIS 13 million; the reduced award was reached by compromise.

Judy Siegel

Driver fined NIS 3,000 for cigarette butt

The driver of a private bus was fined NIS 3,000 yesterday by the Haifa Magistrate's Court for throwing a lit cigarette butt onto the road. A representative of the Environment Ministry asked the judge to impose a severe penalty, arguing the court must deter such a dangerous, widespread practice that can harm pedestrians as well as the environment.

Iim

Italy marks 150 years of Jewish civil rights

The Italian Parliament yesterday hosted celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the granting of civil and political rights to Jews and Waldensian Protestants in Italy.

Luciano Violante, the president of the House of Deputies, said that a secular state "is the necessary premise for pluralism."

He said that today's challenge was to "guarantee the freedom of all religious plus individuals who have no religion."

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities is scheduled to hold its quadrennial congress in Rome on June 21-23.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig

HU to open engineering school

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem announced yesterday it will open an engineering school in the 1999-2000 academic year, becoming the first academic general engineering school of its type in Jerusalem.

Hebrew University President Menachem Magidor said the school would concentrate on electronics, computers and communications.

MKs fail to bridge gap on conversion

LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee yesterday failed to reach a breakthrough in the conversion dispute, despite the efforts of its chairwoman, Naomi Blumenthal.

"Without dialogue, there can be only losers, Israel and the Diaspora," said Blumenthal. She devoted most of her comments to trying to prod the Chief Rabbinate toward direct dialogue with the non-orthodox streams of Judaism while, at the same time, seeking to sway the Conservative movement to halt its legal action on the issue.

Most committee members said they are opposed to the suggestion of Alex Lubotzky (Third Way), Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) and Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) under which the compromise of the Ne'eman Committee proposals would be made a law for a two-year period during which the sides could try to reach an agreed upon solution.

Under these proposals there would be conversion colleges with a staff from different streams, but only orthodox conversion in special religious courts at the end of the studies.

Lubotzky himself described his bill as "a last resort" if no other agreement can be reached.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman whose committee drew up the proposals said he is still trying to reach renewed dialogue "in an attempt to get [the different sides] back to the negotiating table and not the courts or legislative body."

"Without dialogue, there is no peace," Neeman said. "Don't turn the issue into a political one," he added. "This is an issue which touches on the essence of our existence as a Jewish people."

Deputy Religious Affairs Minister Arye Gamliel (Shas) said the only solution is to pass the conversion bill, anchoring in law the status quo of orthodox-only conversions in Israel.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said

the Neeman proposals "were rotten from the start" but he had been willing to accept them despite their contradicting Meretz's outlook.

He warned that the conversion bill being demanded by the religious parties - requiring orthodox only conversions in Israel - "will never be."

Philip Meltzer, president of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, said the "Neeman proposals no longer exist," because the concept of dialogue is being ignored by the chief rabbinate.

"I plead and implore you not to drive a wedge between Israel and US Jewry," he said.

Conservative leader Ehud Barak said his movement would be willing to freeze its petition to the High Court to recognize non-orthodox conversion carried out in Israel only if the chief rabbinate is willing to enter a full dialogue with representatives of the non-orthodox streams.

But Menachem Janowsky, the chief rabbinate's representative,

said the Reform and Conservative movements are torpedoing the Neeman Committee proposals because they thought the rabbinate would not accept them and are now looking for a way out by blaming the orthodox establishment.

In other MK responses to the conversion bill, Ophir Pines (Labor) called on the government to halt the legislation. MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said the only solution is to eliminate the category stating religion in identity cards.

Poll: 54% support non-Orthodox conversions

Fifty-four percent of the public support non-Orthodox conversions, while 38% feel that only the Orthodox interpretation is valid, according to a survey conducted by Senate, which prepares information for MKs and works alongside the Israel Institute for Social and Economic Research. It said that it polled a representative sample of 503 adult Israeli Jews. The margin of error was $\pm 4\%$.

The survey, conducted by Dr. Gad Barzilai of Tel Aviv University, found that among the 54% who object to Orthodox exclusivity 32% support giving a potential convert the freedom to choose which stream of Judaism to follow, although only 10% themselves support Reform or Conservative conversions. Another 10% said they support having secular or civil control over the matter.

Jerusalem Post Staff



Remembering Menachem Begin

MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud) signs a dedication scroll yesterday at the cornerstone laying ceremony for the Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem's Talbiyah quarter, where materials related to his father's life work will be enshrined. Begin sat in a back row, far from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other VIPs.

(Text: Iim; photo: Isaac Harari)

Conservatives protest Lubotsky proposal

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The rabbinical wing of the Conservative movement yesterday "strongly protested" the government's decision to reintroduce conversion legislation, and was skeptical of the so-called Lubotsky measure.

In a resolution passed unanimously by its executive board, the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly also called on Labor, Yisrael Ba'aliya, the Third Way, Tsomet and "many MKs in Likud" to honor their commitments to the Conservative movement and oppose "any bill that would legislate an Orthodox monopoly in conversion."

The assembly represents 1,400 rabbis in 800 congregations around the world.

In a meeting yesterday with Shmuel Siso, the consul general to New York, Conservative Rabbi Reuven Hammer of Jerusalem complained that the Israeli government "had gone out of its ways to discredit" the Masorti movement with a "disinformation" campaign.

He also cast doubt on the value of the Lubotsky legislation, which would implement the Neeman Committee's recommendations on conversion.

"You cannot legislate attitudes," Hammer said. "The committee had called on the Chief Rabbinate to be 'flexible.' 'How do you legislate flexibility?'"

IAF grounds pilot for bombing road

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The air force has grounded an F-15 pilot after he mistakenly released two cement-filled training bombs in the Negev. The 500 kilogram bombs hit the main road between Shifon and Tzchor, causing no injuries or damage.

The IAF confirmed the incident and said that the air force had set up an inquiry. They said the pilot would be grounded until the investigation is over.

The incident follows a number of near-accidents which could have had tragic results.

Last week, a Bell 212 nearly hit a CH-53 transport helicopter at the Mahanayim air base near Rosh Pina. A half hour later, at the air base, a different CH-53

nearly landed on top of another CH-53 chopper filled with 35 paratroopers.

The IAF set up an inquiry into those incidents.

Yossi Peled, a former OC Northern Command, said that the number of accidents could be reduced if the IDF treated near-accidents with the same degree of severity as those that are fatal.

"Sometimes there is almost an accident and it is not treated under the heading of an accident and the results are terrible," Peled said. "These things have to be treated without mercy. The responsibility of commanders overrides being nice and they have to deal with a near accident the same as they would an accident."

Neeman to Reform leaders: God gave the Torah to us all

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday told a group of Reform leaders from the US that God gave the Torah to the Jewish people and this could not be changed.

Neeman, who headed the committee set up to seek a solution to the issue of registering Reform and Conservative converts in Israel as Jews, said that the committee had not been a failure.

The fact that Jews with differing views had sat together and discussed their differences was in itself an accomplishment, he argued.

"God created us all. The Torah was given to us by God and it can't be changed by human beings," Neeman told the group.

When asked later how, in the light of what he had said, he related to Jews who did not accept Halacha, Neeman replied that no could fulfill the 613 commandments given by God on Mt. Sinai. Observing the commandments, he said "is something between me and my God."

Halacha, he said, was what unified the Jewish people.

While criticizing Reform rabbis for "adding to the flames" of the conversion controversy, Neeman also admitted that he was not entirely happy with the Chief Rabbinate Council, which had rejected his committee's proposed joint conversion institute and dismissed any cooperation with the non-Orthodox.

Neeman also criticized the Chief Rabbinate for not finding a solution to the problem of tens of thousands of immigrants from the CIS who are not Jews according to Halacha.

"Unfortunately, the rabbinical world did not tackle this issue. The Chief Rabbinate closed its eyes to this issue," Neeman said.

Dialogue with the Diaspora

An Internet dialogue on the conversion bill and Jewish pluralism has been launched by Ben-Haimutsoth. The virtual symposium marks the Diaspora museum's 20th anniversary and is meant to encourage Israelis and Diaspora Jews to have a dialogue. The address of the site is <http://www.bh.org.il>. Judy Siegel

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ZOA escalates campaign against US Holocaust scholar

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The Zionist Organization of America on Monday appeared to be escalating its campaign against an American Holocaust scholar, even as it came under fire for "willful misrepresentation" and "character assassination."

ZOA President Morton Klein has criticized the incoming director of the research center at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, John Roth, for a 1988 opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times* in which Roth said the Palestinians "are being forced into a tragic part too much like the one played by the European Jews 50 years ago."

Roth, chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Claremont McKenna College in California, was referring to the expulsion of the Jews from Germany, not the genocide that followed.

Angered by Roth's analogy, Klein suggested he be ousted. "According to the writings we have read, he seems unfit for the position of Holocaust studies director," Klein said in a weekend interview.

"There are other things he's written that are very troubling," Klein said last Monday, hinting these would be revealed in a few days.

However, he acknowledged that he was unfamiliar with the corpus of Roth's work and was surprised to learn that Roth had written some two dozen books.

When he first criticized Roth last week, Klein said he had read only the 1988 opinion piece and "skimmed" one of Roth's books on Auschwitz, whose title he could not recall.

Several Holocaust scholars furiously rejected what they called censorship and a "litmus test" for US federal employees. The museum is a federal institution.

"Is there a political requirement, a litmus test, for service in the federal government that you have to toe the line of Morton Klein?" asked one Holocaust scholar.

In a press release received Monday, Klein printed segments of published comments from several Holocaust scholars and Jewish communal leaders in support of his criticism of Roth's opinion.

However, several scholars fumed that he was using partial - and misleading - quotes and distorted their intent.

The selective use of quotes is "a deliberate attempt at character assassination," said Michael Berenbaum, former director of research at the museum and now the head of the Spielberg Visual History Foundation.

"That press release takes my words out of context. I am convinced he willfully misrepresented what I said," said Deborah Lipstadt, chair of the graduate program in Jewish Studies at Emory University in Atlanta.

"It's outrageous," Klein's press release quoted Lipstadt, a member of the museum's governing council, as telling the Jewish weekly newspaper *The Forward* last week "that Roth's *Los Angeles Times* op-ed was 'odious.'"

However, *The Forward* reported that Lipstadt, "said that while the comparison in the op-ed piece was 'odious,' the choice of Mr. Roth is 'a wonderful appointment.'"

She said Mr. Roth "had incredible character and integrity" and also praised his devotion to the topic of the Holocaust. "I hate the idea that he is being tarred and feathered," *The Forward* quoted Lipstadt as saying.

Klein said Monday that it was not unfair to omit her support for Roth. "I thought it was fair to say that Deborah Lipstadt condemned John Roth's article," he said.

When pressed, he said he understood that readers might get the impression that Roth was being attacked, both by ZOA and Lipstadt.

"I was trying to focus on the article," Klein said. "If that is fair or not, I don't know. If people were misconstruing what I say, I certainly didn't intend that."

Judges reject Dotan's bid for release

By DAN IZENBERG

A panel of three High Court justices yesterday rejected the petition of Rami Dotan, who wanted an army committee to reconsider its rejection of his appeal to be released from prison for health reasons.

Dotan, who held the rank of brigadier-general and was in charge of acquisitions for the air force, was sentenced to 13 years in jail on several counts, including accepting bribes and breach of trust.

In a unanimous decision, the justices ruled that Dotan and his attorney, Daniel Friedman, had failed to persuade them that the committee's decision was grossly unreasonable.

They added that they did not see their role as taking the place of the committee and weighing the merits of each party in the case.

Friedman said afterwards that he was sorry "the court did not consider all the aspects of the case. I think we explained all of the shortcomings in the committee's decision."

Two years ago, after being admitted to Assaf Harofeh Hospital following what may have been a stroke, Dotan asked to be released from jail. Several months later, he was hospitalized a second time.

After months of deliberation, during which doctors testified to the gravity of his condition, a three-man committee decided to release him. The doctors said his condition was characterized by high blood pressure which could not be brought under control.

The decision was greeted with public outrage. Four people petitioned the High Court of Justice, which ordered the committee to suspend its decision, resume deliberations, and to allow the Judge Advocate-General to testify and question witnesses.

In March, 1998, the committee reversed its decision, and ruled against Dotan's request. In response, Dotan petitioned the High Court of Justice.

Friedman's case was based on the fact that the surgeon brought in by the army to examine Dotan and provide a medical opinion after the committee resumed its deliberations had not studied the hospital records documenting the

two incidents which may have been strokes.

The army's surgeon, Dr. Oded Abramsky, said that on the basis of his findings, he believed Dotan had not suffered a stroke.

Friedman said he had no choice but to accept the court's decision because there was no higher instance of appeal. However, Dotan has the right to appeal to the committee every six months.

Furthermore, he will have completed two-thirds of his sentence next year and will then be able to request a release for good behavior.



A jubilee hike

Ninety members of the Jewish National Fund from Great Britain launched a 50-mile (80 kilometer) hike yesterday from Mount Hermon to the Sea of Galilee in honor of Israel's jubilee anniversary. The trek is expected to raise \$150,000 for the fund.

(Joe Malsin)

Pfizer to apply for local Viagra license

By JUDY SIEGEL

Pfizer's local representative plans to apply for a license for Viagra, the anti-impotence pill, in two weeks, but it is expected to take two months before the drug can be obtained by regular prescription. Batya Haran, the Health Ministry's pharmaceutical chief, said yesterday.

Currently Viagra is available only as a personal import, requiring the approval of a district health officer. Once it is registered by the Health Ministry, it may be purchased by prescription alone.

Experts told a Knesset Science and Technology Committee yesterday that the drug is meant only for men who suffer from physiological impotence, and not as an aphrodisiac.

They said that the pill should not be taken by women, and that laboratory studies have shown it could cause blindness in offspring.

Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabasi said "Viagra would not be covered" by the health funds, as it would be too expensive.

Officials from the Association of Health Service Consumers noted that the health funds aren't covering the costs of even several life-saving drugs.

Dr. Haim Perry, a urologist at Ichilov Hospital and the Zamenhof Clinic in Tel Aviv, reported that "every second man over 60 comes in and asks for a prescription for Viagra."

Committee chairwoman Dalia Itzik urged the launching of a public information campaign to explain the risks of Viagra to heart patients.

Almost a people's festival

By HELEN KAYE

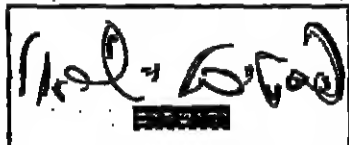
This year's festival is almost a people's Israel Festival. In the past, the program has suffered from an elitist image, bolstered not little by pretty elitist prices, but this year there are about 10 popular entertainment events. Among them are performances designed to attract those who don't usually go to festivals - such as taxi drivers.

"The Festival? Nah, I don't go," one driver said.

"Did you go to the tribute to Naomi Shemer?"

He had, with his wife and son, and was surprised to hear that the celebration had been part of the Israel Festival. The Sultan's Pool was filled almost to capacity both evenings and the tickets were an affordable NIS 40 - 60.

An evening of Yiddish and Ladino songs cost NIS 40. A performance by the multi-ethnic



Yusuf Ve'ehad band ran NIS 56-90 per ticket.

Other popular events, albeit more expensive, have included Greek singer Eleftheria Arvanitaki, and the Argentinean dance company, Tango por Dos.

The Canadian circus, Cirque Eloize and sunrise concert of oriental or Mediterranean music are still to come.

Multiculturalism, and its attendant expansion of audience base have been a deliberate strategy over the last four years for the festival's general manager Yossi Talgan and artistic director Micha Lewensohn.

The festival has also expanded its outreach. This year, said

Talgan, some 10,000 Arab and Jewish youth from all over the country will pay from NIS 30 - 70 to attend events versus 6,000 in 1997.

The circus, the sunrise concert and the Sao Paulo Ballet from Brazil are popular choices. Additionally, this year soldiers in uniform get in free on a space available basis and every day, thanks to the Friends of the Israel Festival, pensioners from Jerusalem's poorer neighborhoods are bused to the free events on the Jerusalem Theater plaza and get free cake and coffee.

Talgan also said there were plans for about 400 new immigrants from the CIS to see a special performance of *Brothers and Sisters* by the Maly Theater of St. Petersburg.

"But no matter what we do, there will always be those whom the festival doesn't interest," said Talgan.

New heart procedure used for first time in Israel

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 76-year-old man whose heart was so obstructed by swollen muscle tissue that he was unable to walk two steps, will now be mobile, thanks to a new procedure involving the injection of alcohol into the heart via a catheter.

He was the first patient in Israel to undergo the one-hour procedure, which was developed by Dr. Antonio Colombo of Milan.

The treatment was performed at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital and beamed by cable to the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, where hundreds of participants at the hospital's Third International Symposium on Cardiology and Cardio-thoracic Surgery were watching.

The patient, whose in-hospital recovery will take just four days, has suffered from symptoms of

hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy for years.

Caused by a genetic defect, it is often the reason for sudden death in young athletes unaware of the condition.

In this elderly patient's case, said Dr. Yaron Almog, head of the hospital's catheterization unit, it was kept under control by drugs, but they finally lost their efficacy, and he was confined to a wheelchair.

"The genetic defect caused an obstruction of the part of the left ventricle leading to the aorta, because the muscle tissue swelled," Almog explained. This condition causes fainting, dizziness, pain and even sudden death due to irregular heartbeat.

The alcohol kills the swollen cells, leaving room for blood in the left ventricle that can pass freely into the aorta and the rest of the body.

Other demonstrations performed in front of the cameras at the symposium yesterday and Monday included the replacement of a defective mitral valve using robotic arms and minimal incisions into the chest, the insertion of a supportive stent into the renal artery, and a bypass operation that doesn't require a heart-lung machine.

Plan drawn up to crack down on hospital violence

By JUDY SIEGEL

People suspected of attacking medical staffs will be arrested and tried immediately, Health Ministry director-general Prof. Gabi Barabasi and Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk have agreed.

The ministry and the police are in the final stages of preparing a plan for discouraging hospital violence which has been on the rise recently, with half a dozen attacks reported in emergency rooms and clinics in as many weeks.

The latest case involved a doctor at Kupat Holim Clalit's Zevulun Clinic in Haifa who had a tooth knocked out on Monday and two others damaged when a chair was thrown at him.

A woman clerk who rushed to the physician's aid was beaten as well. The attacker, a 25-year-old from the Haifa area, was arrested and brought before a judge.

According to Clalit, the suspect had been a patient at the clinic but had been told that he couldn't continue to receive medical care there. He got angry and attacked a

female doctor; when the male physician came to her assistance, the assailant hit him with a chair.

The ministry said that it hopes that quick police action would help reduce the incidence of violence against doctors. Reuven Cohen, the ministry's chief security officer, said that a proposal for fighting hospital violence has been drawn up following a visit by investigators to emergency rooms in various hospitals. The proposal is expected to be presented tomorrow to the relevant authorities.

The plan recommends posting police officers or civil guards in some emergency rooms.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza had initially spoken out against stationing police at the hospitals.

In addition, the ministry is likely to agree to install emergency call buttons and may also supply medical staffs with cans of mace spray which could be used to temporarily disarm an attacker.

Cohen welcomed the police's new aggressiveness in bringing suspected attackers of medical personnel to court.

Biotech conference planned in Jerusalem

By JUDY SIEGEL

Genetic engineers abroad have developed plants such as tobacco and banana to produce vaccines against human diseases, including hepatitis B.

The topic will be taken up at the International Conference on Biotechnology and Tissue Culture of Plants planned for next week at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

Some 1,000 scientists from 55 countries are expected to attend the conference organized by the International Association for Plant Tissue Cultures headed by Prof. Arye Altman, head of the Warburg Center for Agricultural Biotechnology of the Hebrew University Agriculture Faculty in Rehovot.

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Jehuda Benizki, of the Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, for the development of novel seed-planted hybrid varieties of the globe artichoke.

Prof. Nissim Garti and Dr. Yuri Feldman of the Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry, for the development of the time domain dielectric spectrometer.

Prof. Joseph Hirschberg, of the Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, for the development of genetic engineering of astaxanthin production in transgenic plants.

Prof. Itamar Willner, of the Institute of Chemistry, for the development of new biosensors.

Galen Marquis, of the Institute of Jewish Studies, for the production of the Hebrew University Bible Project.

Amir Zuker, of the Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences, for the development of transgenic carnation plants with novel characteristics.

Alexey Kamyshev, of the Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry, for the development of form 3 aspartame.

Prof. Michael Schieber, Dr. Jacob Nissenbaum, Dr. Leonid Melnikov and **Assaf Zuck**, of the Hermann Graduate School of Applied Science, for the development of polycrystalline hg 12 x-ray detector plates for digital radiology.

US joins EU in freezing Serbia investments

By PATRICK WORSHP

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US decided on Monday to impose an assets freeze and an investment ban on Serbia, hours after the European Union did likewise, because of Belgrade's crackdown on Kosovo Albanians, US officials said.

The State Department also announced formal US support for a proposed British draft of a UN Security Council resolution that would implicitly authorize military action if necessary against Yugoslavia to stop the violence in Kosovo.

Clashes between Serb forces and Albanian gunmen have killed at least 250 people in Kosovo since February. While no major power supports Kosovo independence, the West is pressing Serbia to restore autonomy, suspended in 1989, to the province.

Big powers had agreed an assets freeze and investment ban last month but later suspended them after Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic opened talks with Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Albanians, who form 90 percent of Kosovo's population.

Rubin told reporters that despite the talks, "the indiscriminate use of violence [by Serbian forces] over the past two weeks has undermined the basis of those talks," adding that "we are now moving forward to implement the assets ban and the investment ban."

A senior State Department official, who asked not to be identified, said an executive order, which was "probably in train right now," was needed to implement the measures. "But we've made the decision," he said.

The US move came hours after the EU decided to ban new investments in Serbia. Western powers are seeking to exclude Montenegro, which forms Yugoslavia along with Serbia, from sanctions, but say that may be technically difficult in the case of an assets freeze.

Other sanctions already imposed on Belgrade since March include a ban on exports of arms and lethal equipment, and a ban on government investment credits.

Foreign ministers of the "Contact Group" on Balkan issues - Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the US - will meet in London Friday to discuss Kosovo.

Rubin said the meeting was "to galvanize a greater effort to convince Milosevic of the dangers he faces and plan for what happens if the situation deteriorates further."

Rubin also announced for the first time US support of a British UN resolution that would authorize "all necessary measures" to halt the crackdown in Kosovo.

A similar phrase was used in November 1990 when the US persuaded the 15-member Security Council to approve its military action in the Gulf to expel Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"We are working with our British allies in support of this resolution," Rubin said.

Other US officials said the British had not yet circulated any document on Kosovo at the UN and that Washington and London were trying to gain the support of pro-Serbian Russia, which has a veto in the Security Council.

Earlier, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said mili-

tary intervention in or around Kosovo was not being contemplated in the short term. "That's not something... that is at this point on the table," he told reporters.

But White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters in New York that military action was still an option.

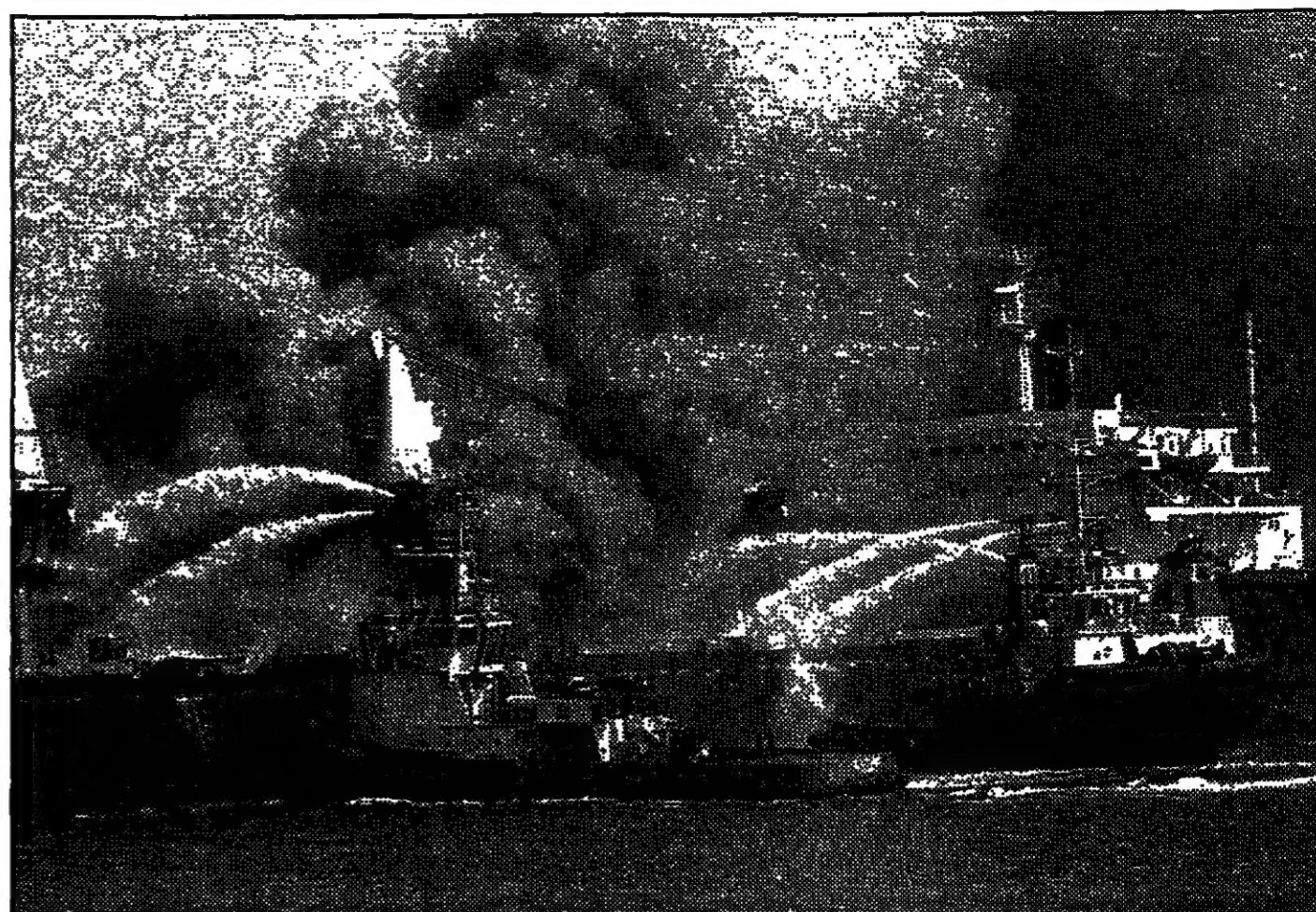
"We and our partners have a variety of options available to us, and no decisions have been made on that score, but again nothing should be ruled out either," he said.

Rubin noted that NATO had asked its military experts to study options of sending forces to the neighboring states of Albania and Macedonia, or to Kosovo itself.

He said Milosevic's crackdown was increasing popular support for the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK).

"With every day that he makes the mistake of using force... he becomes the membership chairman in the UCK's efforts, because he continues to push the people of Kosovo into a more extremist posture than they otherwise would be," he said.

"At some point, we hope he stops shooting himself in the foot and shooting the people of Serbia in the foot, and gets the message that the way to protect the interests of Serbia is to work at this problem at the negotiating table," he added.



River of fire

Istanbul fire-fighting boats try to extinguish a blaze aboard the Greek cargo ship Mariana, which caught fire in the Sea of Marmara as it was leaving the Bosphorus yesterday. It was unclear what caused the noon fire in the ship's cargo hold, full of pitch-smeared telephone poles and sheets of iron being ferried from Romania's Black Sea port of Costanza to Gibraltar. The fire was still smoldering in the early evening. (AP)

New Nigerian leader sworn in

By FELIX OMIAH

ABUJA (Reuters) - Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar was sworn in on Tuesday as Nigeria's ninth military ruler following the death by heart attack of strongman Gen. Sani Abacha.

In a brief acceptance speech to the ruling military council in Abuja, Abubakar, a quiet, bespectacled career soldier who became chief of defense staff but has never held high political office, described his appointment as a personal challenge.

"All hands must be on deck to move this nation forward. I will address the nation in due course," he said, declaring seven days of national mourning for Abacha, during which flags will fly at half mast.

Abubakar made no mention of presidential elections looming on August 1, for which Abacha was the sole candidate.

Nigerian army rulers have repeatedly promised and repeatedly delayed the restoration of democratic rule.

Abacha's death has thrust oil-producing Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation of more than 104 million people, further into political uncertainty.

World powers and Nigerian opposition leaders quickly urged the ruling clique to ensure democracy is given a chance in the former British colony ruled by soldiers for all but 10 years since independence in 1960.

The US State Department, which had been critical of Abacha's arrangements for the August election, said it wanted to see a "genuine" transition to civilian rule by October 1.

"Our hope, among others, would be... that an accountable, civilian government that is able to lead the Nigerian people will emerge from what has been a very horrific episode in which basic, fundamental rights have been suspended," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The EU called for an accountable civilian government that will respect human rights.

Opposition groups in ethnically-divided Nigeria's Yoruba south-

west had said they wanted detained local millionaire Moshood Abiola, the presumed winner of annulled 1993 elections, made president of a national unity government.

But despite opposition warnings that they would not accept another military ruler, few political analysts had expected Abiola to be appointed.

Abubakar, like most of Nigeria's rulers since independence is a northerner. He is from the same region and close to former military president Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, who annulled 1993 elections and paved the way for Abacha's takeover.

"He has always kept himself in the shadows. A real dark horse," said one Nigerian politician in Lagos of Abubakar. "Nevertheless, his appointment at this time seems the logical one to make, perhaps because of that." Few years were shed for Abacha away from his graveside in his home city of Kano, where he was buried in accordance with Moslem rites on Monday evening.

The streets of the southwestern commercial capital Lagos and other big cities emptied quickly as night fell and the principal emotion at news of Abacha's death was fear of where Africa's crisis-plagued giant will go next.

"I won't say I'm not unhappy that he's dead after the trouble he caused," said businessman Tunde Abayomi in Lagos. "I'm just afraid over what comes next. Everybody is afraid."

Worries over Nigeria's future have already cost the naira currency more than 14 percent of its value against the dollar this year. The stock exchange index dropped more than 7.5 percent since January 1, with traders blaming political worries.

Abacha seized power at a time when pundits warned the country, which fought an ethnic-based civil war in the 1960s in which more than one million people died, could break into rival fragments.

"There is real fear that all of a sudden the problems that Abacha managed to suppress in the last five years will resurface with a vengeance," said one Nigerian politician resident in London.

US said planning to cut combat troops by 13%

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The US Army plans to trim troop strength in its 18,000-soldier combat divisions by 13 percent in the first of a series of moves to create more agile land forces, the Washington Post reported yesterday.

The newspaper said the changes were the most conservative of several options considered by army officials and fell considerably short of the wholesale streamlining of the combat structure advocated by some in the service.

The changes affect six of the army's 10 divisions, the Post said.

It quoted military officials as saying the reforms would be the first of a progressive series of moves over the next decade or two.

Other studies are under way on revising the army's remaining four divisions, the Post said.

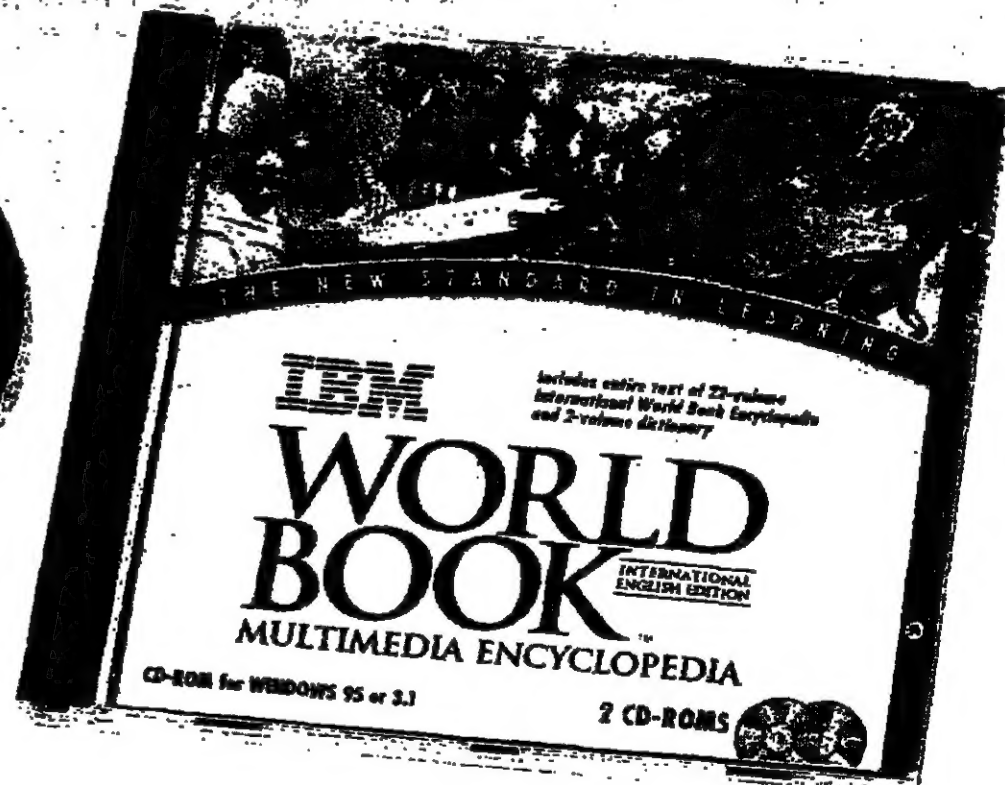
"In doing this redesign, we conducted probably the most intense and thorough look that the army has ever gone through," the Post quoted a colonel as saying.

The new divisions will have somewhat fewer armored vehicles and more reconnaissance and artillery equipment than before, according to the newspaper report.

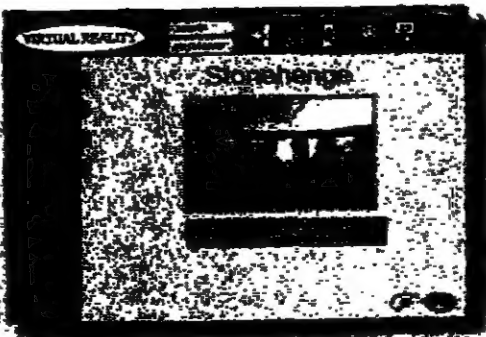
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Nagasaki's sober look at nuclear escalation

By KEVIN SULLIVAN

NAGASAKI, Japan — Komatsu Koga, sweet in her pink floral-print pajamas, knelt up in her hospital bed and recalled the hell she has spent a lifetime trying to forget.

Fifty-three years after the atomic bombing of this seaport city, Koga, 72, can still see the flash-charred corpses sitting upright in the blistered remains of the train they were riding. A horse still standing, blackened in instant death. She remembers the horrible burns on her mother and five others in her family, including the infant niece she tried to nurse with rice gruel because there was no milk. The baby died in her arms in the mountain cave they shared for months with other bomb survivors whose homes had been incinerated.

As world leaders scramble to devise diplomatic solutions to a new arms race rising from the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, people here at the epicenter of the world's last atomic bomb attack wish all the warriors and diplomats could see what they have seen.

All of Asia is consumed by a jittery unease since Pakistan and India started their rival bomb testing, but perhaps nowhere more than Japan is the fear of a new nuclear arms race so palpable. And none are more outraged than Japan's

hibakusha, survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, who believe history's lessons are going unlearned.

"We have witnessed the reality of what could happen," Koga said, from her bed in the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital, where she was undergoing tests Monday for liver disorders caused by radiation.

Koga is one of 317,000 surviving Japanese hibakusha who have illnesses resulting from the two atomic bombings. The Japanese government issues each of them a special ID card and pays all their medical expenses. A half-century after the American bombs nicknamed Fat Man and Little Boy fell on Japan and ended World War II, doctors here say about 7,000 people who were on the ground on those two days still die every year from leukemia and other diseases believed to be related to the bombs.

"I don't understand what is going through the minds of these Indian and Pakistani leaders," said Koga, her eyes welling up at the memory of the horrors she witnessed. "People talk about (the aftermath of a nuclear bombing), but without actually seeing it you could never comprehend what it really means."

In her hospital bed, kneeling in polite Japanese style, Koga said it has been only in the last two years that she has



Japan's leaders and its public have reacted with uncharacteristic vehemence in condemning Pakistan's and India's nuclear tests. (AP)

been able to discuss what happened to her on the day the bomb fell. "I never spoke of it," she said. "All I could do was cry."

As the only nation ever to suffer nuclear bomb attacks, Japan sees its anti-nuclear campaigning as something of a sacred duty. So do the Japanese who still

bear the scars. "Our memories live strong," said Sadaaki Numata, chief spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry. "Many Japanese people watched their parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters die because of the bombing. They still have vivid memories."

JAPAN has joined the US in backing its anger with economic sanctions. Tokyo is the largest contributor of foreign aid to India and Pakistan, two poor nations that rely on foreign generosity to develop. Japan provides about \$1 billion a year in loans and grants to India and half that much to Pakistan. That money has been frozen by a Tokyo government enraged over the tests, especially because personal appeals from Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto were ignored.

From the UN to the streets of Tokyo, Japan's leaders and its public have reacted with uncharacteristic vehemence in condemning the tests. There have been noisy protests at the Indian and Pakistani embassies in Tokyo. Demonstrators have come daily to the peace museum in Hiroshima and the black granite obelisk that marks ground zero here in Nagasaki, where on August 9, 1945, an atomic bomb with a fireball heated to nearly 14,000 degrees Fahrenheit flattened a city of 220,000 people in less than three seconds.

The situation in India and Pakistan seems perverse to the people in this centuries-old industrial seaport. They say it's almost as if no one remembers they are here. They say that people in India and Pakistan would not be cheering in the streets about nuclear weapons if they really understood the suffering those bombs

have caused. "From our experience, we have a very clear recognition that nuclear bombs and human beings cannot coexist," Nagasaki Mayor Ichio Itoh said in an interview Monday. "The agony, the fear and the anxiety of these people is really beyond any description," said Itoh, whose father was in Nagasaki during the bombing and later died of cancer.

"Our sad history has not been enough to change the world," said Shunichi Yamashita, an internationally recognized radiation specialist who teaches at the Atomic Bomb Institute of the Nagasaki University School of Medicine.

"People should listen to the voice of the hibakusha," said Yamashita, who noted that 900 students, professors and patients at his university perished when the bomb went off.

It's easy to find those voices in Nagasaki. About 74,000 people died instantly when the bomb fell. Thousands more died in the days, weeks, months and years that followed — often depending on how far people were standing from ground zero. There are still more than 57,000 people in the city who are recognized by the government as bomb victims — a category limited to those who were on the ground at the time, or were born within nine months to a mother who was there. (Washington Post)

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Linda McCartney remembered

Paul McCartney penned the Beatles hit "Let it Be" in homage to his mother, who died of breast cancer when he was just 14. On Monday, McCartney gathered family and friends to remember his wife Linda, who died of the same disease in April, and, again, he sought solace in the haunting ballad.

Hundreds of mourners sang "Let it Be" at a private service in the historic church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Monday night in tribute to Mrs. McCartney, photographer, vegetarian, animal rights campaigner, musician, wife - and mom.

"It was amazing, it was a beautiful hymn," comedian Tracey Ullman said after the service.

Other celebrity guests included the other two surviving Beatles, Ringo Starr and George Harrison. Sting, Elton John and film producer David Putnam.

In adjoining Trafalgar Square, animal rights activists set up a giant pair of angel's wings for condolence messages and hung banners proclaiming "Linda: The Animals' Angel" in several languages. Vegetarian children laid flowers beside a large photograph of Mrs. McCartney cuddling a tiny chick.

Some stood for up to seven hours in rain and biting wind to pay tribute.

"Linda McCartney made vegetarianism mainstream," said Janet Payne of west London, who carried a poster showing Mrs. McCartney and a variety of farm and woodland animals.

"I felt I had to come," said Julio Guareca, a disc jockey from Mexico City who was on vacation in London. "I just admired her so much."

McCartney, 55, winked and flashed a V sign for peace at the

crowds as he arrived at St. Martin-in-the-Fields with Heather, 36, his wife's daughter by her first marriage and the couple's children Mary, 27, Stella, 26 and James, 21. He briefly put an arm around his son's shoulders as they made their way inside the imposing 18th century church, which was illuminated with candles and swathed in white roses and Lily of the Valley. Mrs. McCartney's favorite flowers.

The Brodsky Quartet played eight songs McCartney wrote for his wife, including "The Lovely Linda" and "Calico Skies." Actress Joanna Lumley and photographer David Bailey read poems and McCartney, The Who guitarist Pete Townshend and writer Carla Lane gave tributes.

In his own moving tribute to "the girlfriend" he lost, McCartney recalled his wife as a great lover. "We had a lot of fun making those babies," he said.

Speaking of her death, he said: "I still can't believe it but I have to because it's true. After she died I was thinking of her and I thought of her like a diamond, a big orange diamond and if you look at all the facets of the diamond as with every facet you looked at she was greater."

The facets, he said, were like the different roles she adopted in life like her career as a photographer and as a musician.

McCartney revealed that when he went to pick up his knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace last year, Linda was to attend. But that morning, she presented him with a silver watch inscribed, "To Paul, my knight in shining armor."

"Through our kids, our beautiful kids, her spirit lives on," he said. (AP)



Sir Paul McCartney attends a memorial service for his wife, Linda, in London on Monday. (AP)

Mesmerizing Mahler

CLASSIC DISCS

It is no secret that classical musicians today tend to prefer the concert hall to the recording studio.

Indeed, you can't have a better result in the recording studio but it lacks the spontaneity, the real life excitement, the sensation you get only when you play in front of a live audience.

That is why recording companies find themselves traveling to concert halls all over the world to capture live recordings. Not every live recording is a real live recording, however. Usually two or three concerts of the same program will be recorded and the disc will feature an exciting, edited combination of the best moments of all three. But these are still all tracks from the concert hall, and it makes a huge difference.

In 1992, James Levine led the Berlin Philharmonic in Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* and it took

Deutsche Grammophon six years to release the disc, but it was worth waiting for.

Levine is one of the greatest opera conductors in the world today who almost singlehandedly brought the Metropolitan Opera to the forefront of the opera world, and in the process made its orchestra one of the best symphony orchestras around.

But Levine also has a passion for Mahler and he has performed and recorded his symphonies and other works on several occasions. This recording combines the Mahler enthusiast and the opera professional with the consummate artist, and the result is brilliant.

The Berlin Philharmonic have been playing Mahler for many years and with all the leading conductors in the world. They know this music inside out but here suddenly it is as if they discovered a new layer to Mahler, a much softer and more gentle yet at the same time passionate Mahler than one usually associates with the composer. This is a very romantic Mahler, not so aggressive, the composer who knew how to com-

bine words and music in a most sublime way.

Levine has two of today's finest singers at his side. Tenor Siegfried Jerusalem is glorious throughout. He manages to present an almost intimate reading of the score, operatic in grandeur yet subtle and sensitive in concept. Alongside him Jessye Norman sings as softly and caressingly as one could imagine.

It isn't always the case that a series of great ingredients makes a perfect whole. Here a great orchestra, a most sensitive conductor and two of the finest singers in the world gathered to bring an array of sounds that one does not easily experience listening to Mahler, which is much more meticulous and sophisticated than purely emotional.

Such an effect would have never been achieved in the recording studio. This powerful yet captivating rendition can have only emerged in the concert hall. This is one of the most spectacular, mesmerizing and beguiling Mahler discs I have heard in a long time because it takes the music one step forward to a terrain not many have visited before.

'Happy vibes' at the Festival

By HELEN KAYE

What's Caribbean, steel and living in Jerusalem? Jerusalem Steel, Jeffrey Kowalsky's 10-month-old steel band that's playing on the plaza at the Jerusalem Theater tomorrow as part of the Israel Festival's outdoor events.

Kowalsky plays the lead drum and the band's other five members are either students at the Jerusalem Institute for Contemporary Music where Kowalsky teaches percussion, or his grads.

Response to the lively music, which includes the classics, show tunes and Israeli songs, is enthusiastic. Last time the band played at the Festival, audience jiggled,

snapped its fingers and the tiniest ones played unrehearsed among the drum sands.

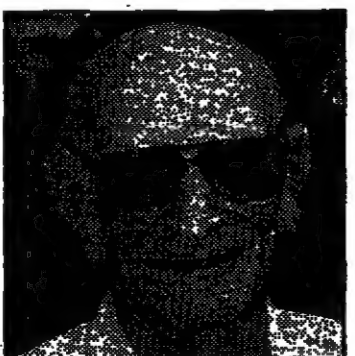
"I get happy vibes from the people," says Kowalsky. "I like playing at the Festival. There's a great feeling of openness."

Kowalsky, 48, immigrated from the US for the first time in 1973 when his friend Lukas Foss, the then music director of the Jerusalem Symphony, invited him to join the orchestra as tympanist.

In 1976 - "I'd always dreamed of teaching at a major university" - he became assistant professor of percussion at Northern Illinois University, a post he held until 1983 when he, his wife and their two children decided to come back here.

"We decided that Israel was where we wanted to bring up our children," he says, explaining the move. Since his return, Kowalsky has been living in Beersheba where he plays percussion with the Beersheba Sinfonietta. He commutes to Jerusalem several times a week.

At NIU, Kowalsky had a friend from Trinidad who made steel drums and with whom he had formed a band there, "and after I started teaching at the Institute, I kept talking about a steel band," he says. "Then we got a special donation from a private individual and I sent to money to my friend to make us the drums. We're the only professional steel band in the country," he brags happily.



Ze'ev Steinberg

ing, he attends concerts and teaches. What is even more important, Steinberg is a very happy man, and says: "If I'd had to do it all over again I wouldn't have changed anything."

The special Ze'ev Steinberg home concert presented by the Musica Nova can be heard Saturday at 9 p.m. at the Israel Music Conservatory and Monday at 5 p.m. at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem. The conductor is Menahem Nebenzahl and the soloist is soprano Shira Green.

Still composing at 80

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

This November, leading Israeli musician Ze'ev Steinberg celebrates his 80th birthday. However, his musical friends have decided to celebrate this great milestone in Steinberg's life with a couple of concerts in the next few days in which Steinberg himself will play and perform, among others, some of his own musical compositions.

The German-born musician immigrated here in 1933, and spent his early days making a living in agriculture and later as a taxi driver. In 1942 he joined the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra where he stayed as a violinist for five decades. Since his IPO retirement, Steinberg has joined the Ramat Gan Chamber Orchestra and is also an active member in the contemporary music ensemble Musica Nova, which he co-founded.

The violinist cum composer never had much time to compose. "I was

an IPO member for 50 years; that leaves you very little time for anything else," he said. Yet since his initial compositions back in the early 1950s, Steinberg has never ceased writing.

The coming Musica Nova ensemble features the world premiere of the Adagio and Rondo scherzos for viola, oboe and bass. It also includes the Israeli premiere of a song cycle set to the poems of Austrian poet Anon Wildgans, who for 20 years was the director of the Burgtheater in Vienna, as well as Steinberg's own settings of instrumental arrangements of 14th century ballads. "It is great music," the composer says, "and it could have been written even yesterday."

The concert also features Hindemith's Oboe, which is "one of the most beautiful works I have ever known."

'Moaning Stones' cancel UK gigs

The Rolling Stones got no satisfaction from the British government on Monday after calling off the UK leg of their world tour because of a new tax law.

The veteran rockers, who said they stood to lose £12 million (\$19.6 million) in tax by going ahead with four British concerts in August, also won little applause from the media or the music industry.

"No sympathy for Jumping Jack Stash" said the tabloid *Mirror* newspaper in an editorial following a statement by the band blaming tax issues and an earlier injury to guitarist Keith Richards for the postponement.

"If we did the UK shows it would have meant the entire European tour ran at a loss and we just couldn't do that, it would have been foolish," said millionaire singer Mick Jagger.

Under the old tax law, Britons who lived and worked abroad for more than a year were exempt from British taxes on their earnings, so long as they did not spend more than 62 days in Britain.

But the Labour government elected a year ago has scrapped that arrangement for everyone except some 10,000 seafarers. Now any resident who works in Britain at all must pay tax on their entire year's earnings.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who

has courted pop stars to cultivate a youthful new image of Britain, thought the decision to cancel the tour was "a matter for the Rolling Stones," the spokesman said.

Jagger said he had no axe to grind with the Labour government. "They have every right to change the tax law. I'm not a party political animal and the government isn't run for my convenience," Jagger told reporters from Munich.

"Personally it has been a very difficult decision to make. I was tempted to bite the bullet but I'm not the only one affected," he added. The band had to consider the tax position of its 270 strong crew as well as its own.

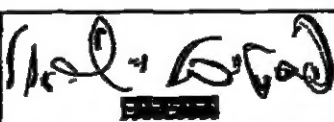
More than 300,000 tickets have been sold for the four British dates, which have been rescheduled for June 1999. Rolling Stones fans deluged the original venues with phone calls on Monday to find out what was happening.

The Rolling Stones, whose members are now in their 50s, earned a reported 31 million pounds last year.

The Daily Mail on Monday called them "The Moaning Stones".

The *Mirror* called the cancellation shabby behaviour, adding: "The band can afford to pay a bit more tax and the country needs all the money it can get." (Reuters)

Big 'Brothers' disappoints



ISRAEL FESTIVAL REVIEW

The Maly's last visit here with Lev Dodin's superb *Guadeamus* encouraged expectations of something even

dinizing of contemporary social realism, but also laced with maudlin sentiment, large doses of soul-searching, hard drinking and fevered folk dance.

What puzzled this unengaged onlooker was why what is undoubtedly a production of great historical significance to Russian audiences has to be dragged out at such length for the delectation of strangers to that epoch? True, to watch original Chinese Opera you have to stand in the street for nearly twice as long. But there the score is 10 times as rousing and rewarding.

TODAY AT THE FESTIVAL

Jerusalem Theater
Shenoy - English Concert, *The Messiah*, 8 p.m.
Little Theater - Shadow and puppet theater, *A Specter of Light*, 5 p.m.
Rebecca Crown - Royal Court and Out of Joint Theaters, *Blue Heart*, 9 p.m.

Plaza - Children's Theater, *1001 Nights*, 6 p.m.; Hebrew, Arabic, Armenian, Greek, Ladino songs with Yerevan band and Betty Klein, *Jerusalem from East to West*, 7:45 p.m.; piano and flute duo, 9 p.m.
Foyer - Renaissance Recorder Quartet, 8 p.m.; Jean-Claude Jones jazz trio, 11:15 p.m.

International Convention Ctr. - *Cirque Eloize*, 7 p.m.

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Getting the audience 'to think twice'

Actress/director Yael Druyanov and her Peace Child Israel group of Arabs and Jews have spent a year creating an original comedy based on Eugene Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*. *Rhinocerosing* "is an attack on the 'I don't wanna get involved' mentality," observes Druyanov. "We don't draw conclusions, but we do ask the audience to think twice." Founded by Druyanov in 1988, Peace Child Israel seeks to create dialogue between Jewish and Israeli Arab youth and gives workshops all over the country.

Funds for *Rhinocerosing* came from Germany's Ebert Foundation. Five of the eight actors in the cast, all aged from 20 to 30, are Jewish. The others are Arabs. *Rhinocerosing* will be at the Inbal Theater at Tel Aviv's Suzanne Dellal Center on Saturday.

Kiss and make up

Haifa Theater star Juliano Mer is back on stage in the title role of *Othello*, which resumed its run in Tel Aviv last week. He was suspended last month following an incident in which he slapped co-star Maya Maoz a little harder than the directions call for.

Maoz ran offstage and it took 10 minutes to persuade her to resume the play. His reinstatement came after Mer apologized to Maoz and the rest of the cast. However, Maoz is quitting her role as Desdemona to join the cast of the upcoming *To Be or Not to Be*.

University theater festival in Jerusalem

Seven visiting university theater companies are coming to the Hebrew University from June 15 to 18 for Thespis, the international university theater festival now in its fifth year. The Hanyon theater on campus at Mount Scopus and Gerard Behar will host some 15 performances.

English-language productions include *Night Just Before the Forests* by Bernard-Marie Koltes by Queen Mary College in London, Steven Berkoff's *Harry's Christmas* from the University of Wales, and *Liturgies* by N. Glickman from Smith college in the US. Local representatives include Hebrew University, the Technion and the Seminar Hakibbutzim among others.

The Georgians are coming!

Batumi, the Georgian State Folklore Company, opens its 12-day nationwide tour of dance, songs and instrumental music at the Kfar Sava Auditorium on June 17. Spectacular dance styles range from toe-dancing to the famed sabre dance. The 50-strong company includes a 10-member choir, seven musicians and some 30 virtuoso dancers. Batumi will go to Netanya, Ramle, Rehovot, Tel Aviv, Peta Tikva, Bat Yam, Jerusalem and will end in Haifa on June 29.



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Unwieldy referendum tool

Just when it seems that a redeployment deal is within arm's reach, a new wrinkle has appeared: the possibility of a national referendum to decide the matter. Though referendums might seem to be the ultimate in democratic mechanisms, their inappropriate use can undermine democracy and should be assiduously avoided.

The idea for a referendum was proposed by Land of Israel Front leader MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet), an ardent opponent of the anticipated redeployment package. This is somewhat puzzling, given that most polls back the contention of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that, if put to a vote, the withdrawal package would receive overwhelming public support.

Not all polls, however, indicate such a clear result. A poll aired recently on Channel 1's *Popolitika* found that a majority of Israelis support redeployment in principle, while a plurality oppose a redeployment that would leave some settlements as enclaves within Palestinian-controlled territory. As is well known among observers of polling, results can differ very widely depending on how the question is posed.

It is precisely the malleability of a referendum campaign that leads both Netanyahu and Kleiner to be confident of opposite outcomes. Kleiner knows that, if just a few aspects of the proposed deal are singled out in a campaign, the public might be persuaded to reject the package as a whole. Even if the public votes for the package, Kleiner reasons, Netanyahu will be forced by the prospect of a referendum to improve the package, to avoid it being tarred by unpopular elements — such as the isolation of settlements.

Former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was thought to have proposed a referendum on any significant withdrawal from the Golan Heights with a similar logic in mind. Though polls at the time suggested that the Rabin government was headed for a trouncing in such a referendum, he may have reasoned that a referendum would force Syria to be more flexible in negotiations in order to satisfy Israeli public opinion. In other words, the prospect of a referendum itself became a negotiating tool.

In Netanyahu's eyes, a referendum may be tempting as a negotiating tool — to postpone a Knesset vote to the end of the session in July or replace it entirely, and to take the wind out of the

right-wing opposition led, ironically, by Kleiner. A further temptation is the fact that a poll conducted by Channel 1 on Friday found that the public supports the idea of a referendum by a clear 60 to 31 majority.

Despite the fact that Rabin proposed a referendum on the Golan, and the recent examples of referendums on the Northern Ireland agreement and the introduction of the single European currency, the expected redeployment package is not an appropriate issue for a referendum. In the cases of Northern Ireland and the separate referendums were conducted among different affected peoples upon the completion of a landmark decision. No single parliament was in a position to reflect the popular will, and there had been no single election that could constitute a mandate for the decision in question.

Regarding the Golan, a case could have been made that Rabin had previously run for office under a promise never to leave the Golan, so that a referendum was necessary for him to reverse positions. But Netanyahu himself gave the clearest response to this claim at the time, arguing that, "The real referendum is new elections." If a government wants to take historic and irreversible steps that are strongly contrary to the mandate granted by the voters, new elections are the appropriate democratic response.

But the opposite is closer to the case regarding the redeployment package. Given that Netanyahu claims that the package is exactly what he promised the voters — implementing Oslo, but doing so in a way that demands reciprocal implementation by the Palestinians — then he has no grounds for calling a referendum. If the decision does break significantly from his electoral mandate, as Kleiner claims, then new elections are the proper remedy.

A referendum is in essence an admission of the inadequacy of the normal democratic process. It is a tool that should not be blithely resorted to as a short-term political tactic, but only in rare cases when a momentous issue cuts across party lines and has not been fully debated in previous national elections. There is no perfect formula to make democracy work, but on balance even an imperfect representative government works better than one that delegates its proper work to spasmodic measures of the popular will.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOCCKER MAD

Sir, — In connection with Sara Henley's article "The footballization of society" (June 3), I was reminded of what Franz Molnar, the great Hungarian-Jewish author, playwright and sometimes philosopher (*Carrousel* was just one of his many masterpieces) — said of the football craze of the Hungarian society of his time.

He said: "I don't understand what football is all about. If they do need the ball, why do they kick it away? And if they do not need the ball, why do they keep running after it?"

ANNA LEVIN

Jerusalem.

SUPPORT ROAD SAFETY

Sir, — Thank you for giving coverage to the Metuna Road Safety Symposium held in Tel Aviv on May 10. I should like to let your readers know, however, that Richard Jones, the other speaker from the UK, and I were only able to attend the symposium with the help and support of many people both here in Israel and at home.

I cannot possibly mention them all, but they include Zaida Harris, Linda Marcus and everybody else at Metuna, the British Ambassador David Manning, and the British Overseas Trade Group for Israel (BOTGI).

BOTGI supported this symposium as part of the British Week held in Tel Aviv in celebration of your 50th anniversary, and it was opened by Lord Stanley Clinton-Davis, Britain's Minister of Trade.

We hope that what we have done helps in some way. There are many dedicated and knowledgeable people working for road safety in Israel and everybody should support them by helping to make your roads safer.

FRANK NUNNELLEY

Kent, England.

UNDEMOCRATIC

Sir, — One person can thwart the will of the Knesset and he has threatened to do so. And the Knesset by-laws allow him to carry out his threat.

Last month, the Knesset passed the so-called anti-missionary bill. MK Meir Sheerit is quoted in *The Jerusalem Post* of May 21 as saying: "this bill will be buried in committee like similar bills before it. There is no way this will become a law."

Under Knesset by-laws a committee is not required to send a bill back to the plenum. It can "sit" on a bill until it "dies."

As well-intentioned as MK Sheerit may be, and as harmful as he believes this bill to be, allowing committees to kill a bill is not the democratic way.

To correct this situation, the Knesset by-laws must be changed so that all bills passed by the Knesset on a first and second reading, must be reported out to the plenum by the appropriate committee within a specified time.

ELI RUDEN

Ra'anana.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CONVERSION

Sir, — In reference to the article by Uri Regav "The truth about conversion" (*J.P.* May 29):

Mr. Regav bemoans the fact that our Chief Rabbinate actually expects (!) that converts to Judaism are sincere in their stated (and sworn to) desire to be Jews and take upon themselves the carrying out of mitzvot.

After all, don't these rabbis realize by now that Judaism is really just a big membership club and that people can "join up" for a variety of reasons, without having to prove by actions and life style that they sincerely want to observe the Torah?

It is clear that, thank God, they don't because if they did they would be contributing to the inevitable (and statistically proven) end result of the Reform Judaism philosophy: rampant assimilation and total abandonment of Judaism.

Judaism is inherently *kabbalat ol hamitzvot* [acceptance of the duty of the commandments]. Any other interpretation of Judaism turns it into something that by definition is not Judaism and leads its adherents down the fast lane of religious demise.

For proof of this one need only to study the objective reports of the consequences of the Reform movement in America on its members children and grandchildren.

I can't believe that Mr. Regav is not aware of this; which makes his argument about conversion all the more disheartening.

NEIL HASSID

Netanya.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On June 10, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that Jews and Arabs agreed to a cease-fire, to begin at 10 a.m. on June 11.

In London, Mr. Bevin told the House of Commons that Arab

Legion bombing of Jewish Jerusalem was justified since Jews attacked Arab holy places. He added that Britain was under no obligation to recognize Israel.

25 years ago: On June 10, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that

at the end of his four-day visit to Israel, the German chancellor Willy Brandt announced that his visit would herald a new chapter in Israel-German relations.

Alexander Zvielli

OPINION

Cup fever

DAVID NEWMAN

I can't believe it. How could a person who prides himself on his organizational and administrative skills have made such a blunder? It will be impossible to live down in certain social circles.

It's like this At Ben-Gurion University we have had an ongoing seminar looking at issues of Citizenship and Identity in Contemporary Israel. It has run throughout the academic year and has proved to be so successful that

kicking a ball around a large grass field? But the truth is that this tournament, the world's greatest sports event, watched by many more world viewers than the Olympics, is what the spice of life is all about.

Forget for a few weeks Netanyahu's refusal to honor Israel's commitment to peace. Forget the increasing Orthodox encroachment in the public sphere of everyday life. Forget the daily

There is nothing like World Cup soccer to bring out your true identity

we have a regular attendance of some 30-40 faculty on Wednesday evenings, many of them having no choice but to sit on the floor because of the lack of space.

Today is the final seminar. Dr. Uri Ram will discuss what's termed globalization: analyzing Israel's identity — individual and collective — in an era of globalization and rapid economic and technological change.

But wait Surely not ... At exactly the same time as the seminar, another event of great importance will be taking place, an event which no self-respecting citizen of the world can miss.

Yes, it's the opening game of the World Cup soccer tournament.

The whole world has been waiting for this moment with bated breath. Forget Israel's fiftieth anniversary, forget the impending millennium celebrations, there is nothing that will draw as much interest throughout the world (true globalization) as this tournament — nothing, that is, since the death of Princess Diana.

Do I detect some cynicism amongst my readers? Is it possible that not everyone reading this column shares my concern at missing the game? Can, I hear you say, he really be trivializing the important events of state and society in favour of watching 22 grown men

death toll on Israel's roads. Oh, and forget the seminars on identity and citizenship, this is the ultimate form of escapism. Turn off from the world, invite your friends around, take out the beer (or perhaps the fresh orange juice), tell the rest of the family that they dare disturb at the pain of death — and sit back and enjoy.

For the next month, hundreds of millions of people throughout the world will become TV soccer morons like me. At the risk of sounding serious, it epitomizes everything we are discussing in our seminar.

THE World Cup is the ultimate form of global identity, everyone tuning into the same games wherever they are. And, at the same time, our primitive tribal and national identities also come to the fore as we cheer on our own team, make derogatory remarks about the opposition and their national culture, and curse the referee for every decision which goes against the "us" in favour of the "other."

It will be especially interesting in Israel where there must be indigenous supporters from at least 20, if not more, of the 32 nations who will be competing for soccer glory. Local-born Israelis, as usual, have no team of their own to support and are cursing the

Dry Bones



Israel national team for, once again, failing to have made it beyond the qualifying rounds.

Of course, if Israel had made it, there would be no need for the mass television coverage — Israel would simply have emptied out as the entire nation (excepting, of course, the participants in the Citizenship and Identity seminar) travelled to France to cheer the team on.

International soccer has really taken on in Israel during the past few years, largely because of the advent of cable TV and the emergence of a few Israeli commentators who actually do know something about the game abroad — although the native soccer supporters amongst us still pride ourselves on catching them out with a wrong piece of information.

After all, what can they "really"

know about a game which "we" invented. Soccer, and cricket, remain the final vestiges of hundreds of years of colonialism and empire, the final proof that there is nothing that unites and divides us at one and the same time as much as a full-blooded sports competition.

I will just have to grit my teeth and bear it during the seminar tonight.

I will have to miss out on the first game, but will be all the more determined to see the rest. At least it is taking place in Europe so the games can be viewed at a civilized hour, rather than in the middle of the night.

There it is. This is where our true identities express themselves once every four years. And those of you who are still with me — well I'll see you at the England — Scotland final on July 12th.

Murder most foul...

PINCHAS LANDAU

Learned papers. Indeed, entire volumes could be penned on this aspect alone; but let's make do with mentioning it.

The victim of the aforementioned murder syndrome is assured of intense media coverage of his/her demise, funeral, who

(often estranged) companion, lover or girlfriend, as well as other murders in the immediate family circle, have become an increasingly commonplace phenomenon in Israel in recent years. The report of such a murder in the media will bring condemnation, evoke revul-

sions. Sometimes, as is perhaps inevitable, innocent bystanders become victims of this mayhem.

Yet, remarkably, the upside in this kind of violence has generated virtually no public response, neither in individual instances nor as a general phenomenon.

Thus the rubbing out of (Sephardi-Jewish) gangsters in Pardes Katz, or of (Russian-Jewish) gangsters in Netanya, or of (Israeli-Arab) gangsters in Ramle is not accompanied by statements, impassioned or otherwise, by politicians of almost any stripe. Their funerals and houses of mourning are unattended by national leaders and unrecorded by national TV.

There is certainly no follow-up coverage regarding the perpetrators, because these — like the overwhelming majority of non-political criminals in Israel — are not apprehended, arraigned and punished.

The forces of law and order are busy preventing, or reacting to, "nationalist" murderers. No religious leaders focus on these (increasingly frequent) occurrences in their (increasingly frequent and increasingly publicized) sermons, lectures and addresses.

Organized and unorganized crime remains, despite its rapid growth and far-reaching consequences, off the agenda of public discourse, especially in the Knesset and the synagogue. It is, after all, merely about morality, ethics and public order in the Jewish state. How much do the Bible, Talmud and Halacha have to say on these issues, compared to really important things like the borders of the state and its foreign policy?

...and murder less foul, ending up with murder least foul. That's the pecking order for meeting a violent end in Israel today. It's also a sad and sobering reflection of Israeli society

visited the mourners, what they said, and what happened to the perpetrators when (as happens in most cases) they are apprehended by the forces of law and order. He or she will also be remembered and often commemorated, and his/her family will receive state support in various forms.

Rabbis in Israel and around the world will eulogize these victims in tear-jerking sermons, and Jews everywhere will feel sympathy for the victim, the family and the State of Israel as a whole. That is, perhaps, a source of some consolation to the victim's memory, that there is a memory and that the murder brought Jews closer together.

NOT so in the case of a lesser murder situation — that of the "personal" sort. Getting rid of one's spouse (usually the husband dispatching the wife) or of one's

vision, sorrow and sympathy, and may even get play for more than a day or two.

But no leading politicians (only heads of social service or voluntary organizations), and certainly no rabbis (here or abroad) will make impassioned statements, much less attend the funeral or shiva. The victim, the perpetrator and the event itself are all soon forgotten, except as part of wider statistics. These latter, however, become important when they begin to surpass the number of "nationalist" murder victims.

At the bottom of the heap are the victims of murders defined, in the police/media jargon, as being of "criminal" nature or motivation.

Members of gangs of professional criminals, engaged in drug-running, protection, vice, or other illicit activities, have recently been more assiduous in blowing away their

wife to think he was having an affair.

At this the Jew burst out laughing. "I've got a hot news flash for you, buddy," he said. "Not one of the people I know had an arranged marriage — and almost all of them are either miserable or divorced by now."

"But at least they had a choice... and still do," the Moslem persisted. "We all have choices," the Jew pointed out. "But they come with a heavy price-tag."

"And what is that?" asked the confounded freedom-seeker.

"You already know the answer," responded his new friend, "or you would not have succumbed to an arranged marriage, and long ago you would have been able to 'declare love' on the woman of your dreams or on the vocation of your dreams — or even on your next-door neighbors with whom you seem to have an affinity."

"I still don't see what you mean by 'price-tag,'" said the journalist, now taking notes.

"Responsibility for the consequences of those choices," said his colleague, as he capped his pen and asked for the check.

RUTHIE BLUM

Each was married in his early twenties; each acquired a few children along the way. Neither still lives with his spouse — the Moslem in another room of the same house, the Jew in another house altogether, after having gotten divorced officially.

Each wrote poetry in his youth, though only the Moslem continues to do so, and even calls himself a poet. The Moslem's estranged spouse — who is "very religious" — thinks of poetry as the work of the devil; that of the Jew — who is as secular as he — thinks of it as the ultimate in spirituality, if somewhat lacking in remuneration.

"I hate religion," the Moslem said to the Jew, as the two sipped their Goldstars, and nodded to acquaintances at other tables. "It's so restrictive. And religious people are so restricted." The Jew smiled, not sure where this was leading.

As if in explanation, the Moslem pointed to a man who had greeted him earlier. "You see him?" he asked. "If he were to see me sit-

ting here with a woman, he would be wondering, 'what are they doing here together? Maybe something sexual is going on between them.' This is the Arab mentality."

"I see," said the Jew. "And you think that if he were a Jew — religious or otherwise — he wouldn't be wondering the very same thing?" At this the Moslem was a bit taken aback.

"Ah, but when you live by religion, you have no choices," he went on. "Like in marriage." The Moslem's wife, it turned out, had been selected for him by his parents. And since then, he has harbored great longing for the woman of his dreams. A woman he has never met, but imagines to be everything he would want in a soul (and sex) mate. A woman to whom he has written inspired verses for as long as he can remember. A woman with whom he would feel no restrictions. A woman to whom he wrote "I declare love on you" in one of his melodic Arabic poems, leading his

One of the world's best-known battered women has put victimhood behind her and is speaking out loud on women's issues as editor of a feisty New York monthly. **Jim Fitzgerald** reports

and writing," she says. "It's what I'm good at, it's what I like."

In the 1970s, Nussbaum edited children's books at Random House. She lost the job, she says, by taking too much time off to hide bruises.

But after the trial and a year at a

For now, she's concentrating on the newspaper. Coming in July is a special issue. It's dedicated to "the second half of life." (AP)

"I wanted them to see I was a healthy, normal human being."

Nussbaum says. But the jobs van-

This section also allows varying the subtle background music to any theme from "detective" to "eastern" and "orbit," and the

Those who fear these games might be addictive have some basis for their concerns. But for those who have an urge to bet and compete and don't want to lose a month's wages on Mifal Hapayis, these programs will satisfy without the need to spend more than NIS 338 for the lot.

failed to rescue her; she never left Steinberg and never summoned help, even when the girl lay dying in their Manhattan apartment. Her predicament and her response pro-

Soon the children are on the floor making the shape of the number two, then the number three with their bodies and the balls.

"People have multiple intelligences," says Ronit Menkin, who has a master's degree in public health and physical education, and who initiated this method in Israel.

(Photo Emulsion)

All those who work with children between the ages of three months and eight years are invited to attend. For information, call 03-640-8440.

"When a child learns the same math lesson through his body, with games and movement, he or she internalizes and remembers. This is true learning," says

Menkin.
Using movement to teach academic subjects was pioneered by

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Corner



By Batsheva Mink
and David Brauner

All of our attention is directed to the garden now that we have entered the summer months. Plants are growing and flowering with an abundance of color and fragrance. The beds and borders, as well as tubs and boxes, are doing their thing. And the lawn is under control.

When the sweltering heat sets in, however, you'll be doing more watering and weeding. You'll have to deal with harmful insects like aphids. The compost heap will need a regular turning over. The leaves of spring flowering bulbs that have started to die must be cut away when they are completely faded and brown.

At this time of the year the work outside seems never-ending, so much so that our indoor plants are left to play second fiddle. Summer is such a busy and tiring time for gardeners, that we quite often overlook what's going on with our beloved house plants.

Plants can't talk, but it's amazing how they let us know when something is bothering them. A brown tip here, a drooping stem there, a fallen bud, a yellow leaf, or chewed edges of foliage are telling us something.

All we have to do to get the message is look very closely at our plants (especially the underside of leaves where many pests lurk). The sooner we spot trouble, the sooner we can deal with it. The problem is that the messages coming from our ailing botanical friends are not always clear. "I'm getting too much or too little water, too much or not enough sun, a draft or lacking enough air circulation, or I'm being over- or under-fed."

The frustrating thing is that there are no final answers. Our only defense is a pinch of realism. We must reconcile ourselves to the fact that we cannot succeed with every plant that comes into our homes. Even professional growers have their losses.

Plants cannot move themselves, and as a result they are more responsive to seasonal changes in light and temperature than we are. Now that our house plants are getting more light and warmth, they will be growing faster. Tender green shoots, shiny new leaves and maybe a flower or two are a plant's way of telling us they are hungry and thirsty.

Signs of growth mean that our plants require regular watering and applications of fertilizer. Basic care is more important for house-bound plants growing in restricted spaces like pots and baskets than it is for plants growing outside in the garden. Once the supply of essential plant nutrients has been exhausted from the potting mix, the roots cannot spread out and tap fresh reserves as they

do in soil outdoors. Feeding every two weeks with a diluted liquid feed should be sufficient for most plants. In pots, liquid feeds have a more even spread than granular fertilizer.

If you look at your house plants and wonder why they don't look the same as when they were newly acquired, the answer is that professional growers give plants the perfect conditions they need to grow successfully. For example, a breeder's hothouse can provide a plant with high humidity, temperatures around 18-24° C., plenty of light without direct sun, and a constant supply of tepid water. Leaves will be kept clean and polished, and pests will be sprayed with surgical precision.

In other words, plants growing under controlled conditions mimicking their native habitat will thrive. But when a new tropical or exotic plant comes into our homes, it is likely not to receive such lavish treatment. Nevertheless, we can find or make suitable spots around the house for specific plants without turning the house into a nursery. Or we can buy plants suitable for the conditions they will live in.

As we all know, our Israeli summers are harsh with constant sun and heat. In the hills the air is dry, and along the coast, humid. Few plants thrive in very high temperatures. As the atmosphere heats up and dries out, so do our houses. Room temperatures rise and remain hot even at night. In such conditions, plants have a tendency to dehydrate, especially house plants which originate in moist, humid jungles or rain forests.

To maintain as much moisture in the atmosphere as possible, plants should be frequently misted with water. Misting also helps keep the foliage clean. But avoid misting when the sun is shining directly on a plant, because the harsh light will cause scorching.

Another way to increase humidity, is to grow as many plants as possible together. Or stand single pots in a saucer filled with stones and water, making care not to let the bottom of the pot come into contact with the water. The roots will rot if constantly exposed to water. Fill the water between the stones once a week.

While furniture is regularly dusted, how often do our plant leaves receive the same treatment? Dust is a plant's enemy in many ways. It clogs the leaves' stomata or pores so the plant cannot breathe properly. More importantly, dust blocks out life-giving light. In fact, dust behaves like a cataract on our eyes, cutting out more than 50 percent of incoming light. A dusty plant simply cannot photosynthesize properly. Also, when foliage is dusty it becomes dull and tired looking, and so spoils the appearance of the whole plant.

The best way to clean large foliage is with a cotton wool soaked in plain warm water about once a month. For stubborn, sticky leaves, add a drop or two of mild soap to the water, and rinse after



Houseplants can't talk, but they do send messages - look closely at them so you can spot trouble early and deal with it.



(J.C. Heilbrunn-Crown)

washing. Small leafed plants (but not furry types like African violets) can be rinsed under the tap, which also washes away many types of infestation.

In the summer, insect pests such as the red spider mite become active. These minute colonizing pests, which relish very dry sur-

roundings, attach themselves to the underside of leaves where a white webbing is sometimes seen. The upper surface of the leaves becomes gray and brittle. Spray at intervals of ten days.

Don't forget to take care of the pots and planters themselves. The fertilizer salts or mold that accu-



During the long, hot months be generous with water, and don't forget the liquid fertilizer. (Photos: David Brauner)

mulates around the rims should be cleaned off with a stiff brush and warm water every once in a while. Also with our hard water, the dishes underneath eventually become covered in "stone." This, too, ought to be removed periodically.

Another good idea to keep an old fork near your house plants. This will remind you to cultivate the soil. Remember plant roots need air, as well as water, to keep healthy.

Taking care of plants is both therapeutic and relaxing. So if we take care of our indoor friends during the long, hot summer, they

TIP OF THE WEEK

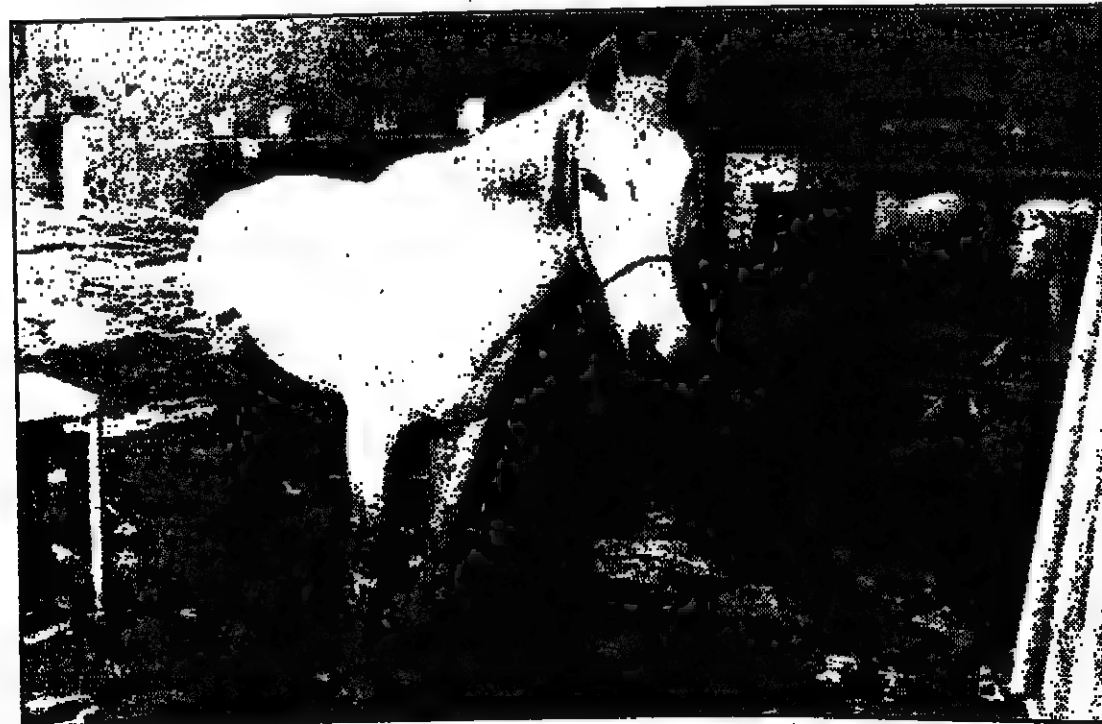
Both summer air conditioning and fans can have a detrimental effect on your plants. Air conditioning removes vital humidity from the air, which must be replaced for many plants. Also, a plant in the constant direct breeze of a fan will lose more moisture through its leaves than the roots can replace. The easiest solution is to move your house plants away from these appliances.

will be there to see us through the gray, dark days of winter.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact

Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

What to do about those buzzing pests



Keep sanitation levels high, and your horse won't be tormented by flies. (IPPA)

leaves and stems works even better than quinine water.

I have used this solution on dogs, horses, cattle and much goats quite successfully. The treatment may be a bit uncomfortable, but it's better than being literally eaten alive by flies. Although the dogs sometimes lick their muzzles, the bitter taste soon stops them.

A bigger problem is eradicating the flies.

This means keeping the area around the kennels raked free of animal feces daily, and making sure the stables are immaculate, mucked out and scrubbed.

Manure must be buried, composted, or treated with quicklime - for this is the flies' principal breeding ground. Nothing is guaranteed to produce more flies than an untended manure pile.

Yes, it's all hard work, but essential for avoiding the flies that plague some areas.

Certain pesticides are useful here too - but these should be discussed with the sanitation officer of your local council, or with the district sanitation officer from the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Health, as in many areas the flies have become resis-

tant to these pesticides. The officials will know what works where.

All in all, the really important factor is sanitation.

Even the best-screened house can fall prey when the flies are out in force. Children open screen doors and forget to close them; window screens get torn; other accidents occur. And no preparation used on an animal will keep every fly away.

But in the end, it all comes down to good animal husbandry and human health. If you want a relatively fly-free existence, keep the general sanitary level high.

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Heads 'N' Tails

By D'vora Ben Shaul

Our moshav has cabled guard dogs on the periphery of the village," writes a reader from the North. "They are well-fed and housed, but the flies torment them terribly. Some have raw, bleeding ear rims, and their faces and muzzles are covered with flies. They are quite pitiful."

"But it's not only the dogs who suffer. I have two horses who are simply tormented by flies. Is there anything I can do for these animals?"

I cannot offer any solution guaranteed to get rid of all the flies, but the following will help, although it requires a bit of work: Take a liter of vinegar, preferably apple cider vinegar or citrus vinegar. From a pharmacy, get a 150-200 ml. bottle of oil of citronella and a 250 ml. bottle of strong quinine water. Add 50 ml. oil of citronella and 75 ml. quinine water to the vinegar. Then add five drops (no more) of kerosene (paraffin) to the mixture.

Shake this very vigorously immediately before use. It is an emulsion, and will not stay in solution.

Sponge the animal's ears, face and muzzle with the mixture. Take care not to get it in the eyes, but go as close as you can. Also keep it off the animal's lips and nostrils.

While this will help a great deal if applied early every morning, I repeat that it is not a total answer. If you have access to the plant known as bitter rue (called *raudah* locally), a strong tea made of the

DRIVE CAREFULLY!

06/10/98

السنة ١٤١٥ هـ

Wednesday,
June 10, 1998

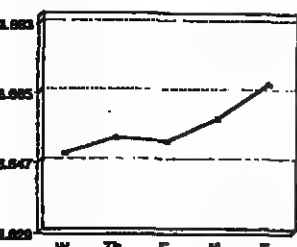
BUSINESS & FINANCE

13

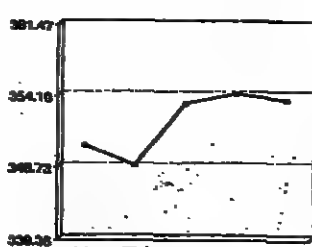
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

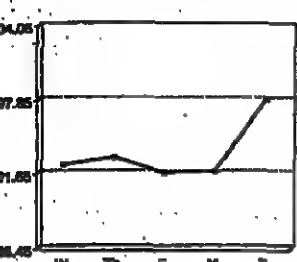


MAOF INDEX



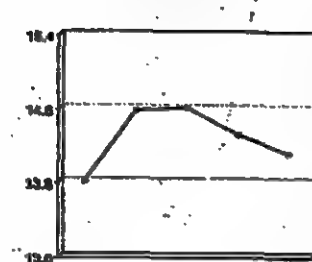
GOLD

\$ per ounce

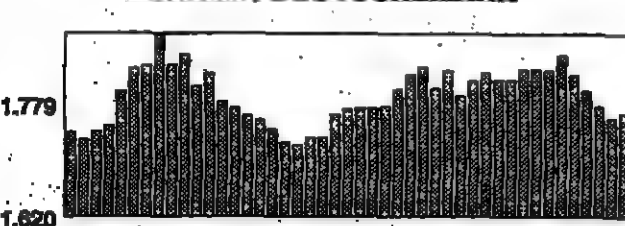


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Egypt votes to privatize banks

By SALAH NASRAWI

In a further move to step up Egypt's privatization program, parliament has approved a government bill that allows the sale of shares in state-owned banks, it was reported yesterday.

The 500-member People's Assembly voted on the bill in a general session Monday that was marred by heated discussions by opposition deputies, who accused the government of succumbing to pressures from the International Monetary Fund.

But the economic daily *Alam al-Yawm* quoted Prime Minister Kamel Ganzoury, who presented the bill, as saying the government will continue to control banking operations through the Central Bank, although it will not be a major shareholder.

Under the new law, which has to be endorsed by President Hosni Mubarak, the government will sell unlimited shares in four major commercial banks and several other development banks it now owns.

The law also stipulates that private investors will be limited to 10 percent of shares each, apparently to prevent monopoly on large shares by both local and foreign

investors.

The head of the assembly's economic committee, Abdullah Tayel, said the move is expected to improve efficiency of the banking sector and bring more investment to the Egyptian economy.

But Khalid Moheidin, leader of the opposition socialist Progressive Unionist Party, told parliament that the privatization of the banks will put the Egyptian economy under foreign control. He and other opposition members voted against the bill.

Parliament endorsed another bill which allows the sale of shares in state-owned insurance companies. Since then, Egypt's gross domestic product has grown from 2 percent to more than 5 percent. Inflation has fallen from 20 percent to under 4 percent and foreign currency reserves have risen to about \$20 billion.

The country's major economic newspaper, *Al-Ahram Al-Iqtisadi*, reported last month that Egyptian banks in February registered assets totaling 205 trillion pounds (\$60b.).

The four main state banks which will be privatized are the National Bank of Egypt, the Bank of Alexandria, Banque du Caire, and Banque Misr. (AP)

US high-tech executives seek regional ventures

By NINA GILBERT

US and Israeli companies have a great deal to offer each other, as witnessed by huge deals, particularly in high-tech, telecommunications, and the Internet fields, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday in a meeting with US Commerce Department official Judith Barnett.

Barnett, deputy assistant secretary for Africa and the Near East, is leading a visit here by a delegation of senior executives from major US high-tech companies, part of a one-week regional tour that also included meetings in the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt.

The group includes vice presidents from GTE, QUALCOMM, Starcom Global Communications, SBC, AT&T, Microsoft, Lucent Technologies and Motorola.

The aim of the mission is to arrange trilateral ventures among the US, Israel and the PA as a way to spur regional business links. "We believe that the long-term future of the region depends on business that crosses the borders of the region," said Edgar Fulton, the US Embassy's commercial counselor. "Both Israeli and Palestinian companies have repeatedly said to us that if

American companies are involved, it brings an element of trust to the whole process."

Fulton also noted US companies that have had great success in establishing high-tech ventures here are interested in expanding their involvement with Palestinians, who can also be a link into business in the Arab world.

"This is a win-win situation that serves everyone's interests," he said. "It also reinforces what we are trying to do on the political level."

The mission, organized by the department, is the second of its type. Last year's mission resulted in deals valued at some \$545 million, Barnett noted in the meeting with Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

Netanyahu said the government has decided to implement a plan to quadruple the number of university graduates in high-tech fields by the year 2003.

He said the shortfall of students in the disciplines is the main impediment to the continued growth of the high-tech sector. The company officials are also to hold business meetings here with high-tech companies. The group also met with the Manufacturers Association and the finance, science and communications ministers.

Manufacturers want 2,000 high-tech workers from India

By DAVID HARRIS

The electronics branch of the Manufacturers Association has requested the government admit 2,000 Indian computer programmers to ease the shortage of workers in the high-tech industry. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday.

Addressing the annual meeting of the board of governors of Hebrew University, Neeman said contemplating such a move "is absurd."

During his speech, Neeman said there is currently a serious shortfall of workers in the high-tech industry and urged academic institutions to improve the quality and quantity of students and courses.

"There is today a shortage in Israel of over 10,000 high-tech engineers and computer programmers."

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel also stressed the need for further well-trained high-tech

employees. "The problem today, the check that puts a hold on the expansion of high tech, is not a shortage of markets, it's a shortage

of trained manpower."

At the other end of the academic scale, Neeman said there is no reason children should begin learning

to read, write and do arithmetic at age six when computer technology allows a three year old to do so. Neeman told his audience there

are no miracles and that the economy "needs a steady policy of restraint."

By reducing inflation to somewhere below five percent this year and keeping to the multi-year budget deficit target, the government "hopes to create our stability again."

Although urging caution, Neeman said there are signs that an economic recovery could be closer at hand than first thought, pointing to first-quarter growth in industrial production (7%) and industrial exports (16%).

Neeman said Monday's \$287 million sale of Mirabilis to America Online was "a sign of what we can do in this country."

Following the session, Neeman said he would not comment on reports that he has instructed Accountant General Shai Talmon to sell an additional 15 percent of Bank Leumi on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. "I will not comment publicly on issues concerning the capital markets," he said.

Krueger: Foreigners waiting for tax cuts to invest here

By DAVID HARRIS

Some foreign investors are biding their time waiting for tax reductions before entering Israel, Lehman Brothers senior managing director Harvey Krueger told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Speaking after addressing Hebrew University's board of governors' annual meeting, he said "foreign investors will see [reduction in taxes] as a positive [step]."

However, he added that other issues are also key to an investor's decision to enter the local market.

"I don't think that tax is the

most important thing for foreign investment - it's stability and confidence in the lack of government interference."

As opposed to other major foreign investors here, Krueger does not believe the peace process is the be-all and end-all attraction to Israel, but he does attach considerable importance to events in recent years.

The peace process is "very important, but not as important as I expected. Israel since 1993 has enjoyed the

results of the peace process. That signing on the White House lawn opened the world to markets. Investors will continue to come here. Obviously, if there is the opposite of peace, which is war, then there are going to be interruptions, but no one is anticipating that. Investors are anticipating that the peace process is inevitable whether or not it is, and investment, particularly in high tech and now in venture capital, is increasing."



Harvey Krueger
(Ariel Jeronimsky)



Air France strike casts shadow on World Cup

Air France planes are grounded at Paris's Orly Airport yesterday, while an Air Liberté plane prepares to take off. A strike by Air France pilots, now in its ninth day, is casting a shadow over travel arrangements for the France '98 soccer World Cup, which kicks off today. (Reuters)

Frenkel on currency reform:

Second best is better than fourth

By DAVID HARRIS

The recent currency reform was implemented on time, without accompanying tax changes because "second-best is better than fourth-best," Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Frenkel was asked by the *Post* whether it would have been better to have introduced necessary tax reforms simultaneously with the currency measures which went into effect just after Independence Day.

"The experience of the world and Israel shows that if you want to find pretexts for slowing down the speed of reforms and liberalization it's always possible," Frenkel replied.

"One can always present the best option as being that all the elements are in place before

implementation but in the world of politics that can be a recipe for paralysis. Therefore I recommended, and I'm happy it was implemented, to progress as much as possible and make as much ground as we can in the spheres of liberalization," he continued.

Frenkel added that restrictions on the ability of institutional investors to invest abroad will only be lifted after the tax changes are put into practice.

The proof of the success of this move has been seen in the fact that there has been no capital flight with the dawn of liberalization, said the governor.

Frenkel dismissed the suggestion that Israelis are not taking advantage of the reform to invest overseas.

"The purpose of liberalization was not 'is it appropriate or not appropriate [to invest abroad].'" It

was more philosophical. The question was why should we prevent, rather than permit."

The idea is for citizens to choose what they do with their own money, he said. "If you see an opportunity, seize it."

Meanwhile, economist Eytan Sheshinski of Jerusalem's Hebrew University suggested yesterday that Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman is encountering considerable difficulty in his efforts to introduce reforms to widen the tax base and reduce the top tax levels. "Neeman is suspiciously silent on that front," said Sheshinski. "I wish he could have his way."

He added that there are many tax exemptions that could be abandoned without hurting poorer people. One such example would be to remove tax exemptions in development towns where the low paid do not even reach the bottom

tax bracket, but where the rich are paying little into state coffers.

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Passersby aid victims seconds after an explosion at a Montreal homeless shelter yesterday. (AP)

2 dead, 30 injured in blast at Montreal homeless shelter

3 Texas men indicted for killing black man

"All evidence shows it will be racially motivated," Bowles said.

Woolworth	58984	-1.3
Yamaha	655	3
Yazoo	166	0
Yazoo Bond A	166	0
Yazoo Bond B	76	0.7
Yazoo Industries	439	0.8
Yazoo Warrant 3	43.9	0
Yazoo	22	-3.2
Yazoo	22	-1.1
Yazoo Bond 2	118.5	0
YDPZ	144	0.4
YDPZ Bond A	144.5	0
Yeh	1381	0
Yeh	229	0
Yesh Gad	38.7	0
Y.F.F.	2	0
Yone Bond A	150.5	1.7
Yone Mobile	1	0
Yonkers	103	0
Yorba	127	1.8
Yorba	127	0
Zachar Holdings	54.5	0
Zachar Bond B	54.5	0
Zachar Warrant 2	54.5	19.3
Zel	166	0
Zel	166	0
Zeller Adams	474	-3.3
Zeller Adams Bond A	1	0
Zeller Adams Bond B	123.5	0
Zeller Inc. Bond A	1	0
Zeller Inc. Warrant 1	594	0
Zika 1	594	2.2
Zika 2	594	0
Zika 5	251.49	0
Zimbal	4.4	-4.4
Zion Cables 1	294	-0.3
Zion Holdings	164.83	0
Zion Metals	164.83	0
Ziv	372	0
Zohar	254	0

Clinton on upcoming China trip: Tiananmen Sq. fine as site for arrival ceremony

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Preparing for a controversial trip to China, US President Bill Clinton said yesterday he will not object to arrival ceremonies at Tiananmen Square, the site of Beijing's 1989 crackdown on dissidents.

"They should be designing the terms of the arrival ceremony, not me," Clinton said. The House overwhelmingly urged the president last week to reconsider the appearance in the square; several human rights groups are protesting the Clinton visit.

In a news conference with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, Clinton also said it is a "pretty routine decision" to allow a US-made satellite to be launched from a Chinese rocket.

Republican lawmakers are investigating whether donations from a Democratic head of a US aerospace company led to Clinton's decision to give the firm a waiver to launch its satellites in China.

The nation's space industries are launching a lobbying counteroffensive to try to persuade Congress not to restrict further satellite exports to China.

"We urge restraint by Congress until the results of its own reviews are complete," said Don Fuqua, president of the Aerospace Industries Association.

In particular, Fuqua and other industry officials want to try to sidetrack legislation that passed the House of Representatives late last month.

By near-unanimous margins, the

House passed a series of amendments to a defense budget bill to keep technology and space information out of Chinese hands, including a ban on future launches of US-made communications satellites atop Chinese rockets.

Such a move also is expected to be made when the Senate takes up the defense bill, possibly later this week.

"Right now, our desire is that there not be any precipitous action taken," Fuqua, a former Florida Democratic congressman who was chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee, told a news conference on Monday.

Fuqua said that the House got caught in a "stampede mentality" in approving the ban as a result of the controversy over Clinton administration waivers allowing satellite exports to China — and congressional inquiries about whether a US aerospace company, the Loral Corp., jeopardized national security by sharing information with the Chinese.

"From all indications we have, there has not been a breach of security," Fuqua said.

The impact of such a ban on US companies involved in communications satellite technology "could be devastating," said Clayton Mowry, director of the Satellite Industry Association.

China has been launching satellites for 28 years, and has been launching communications satellites for other countries since 1987, he said.

Diana fund trustee quits

LONDON (AP) — A trustee of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund resigned yesterday, saying the work had proved too demanding.

Freelance writer and broadcaster Vivienne Parry said when she was appointed, she was asked to give half a day a week to the fund, which raises money for the late princess's favorite causes. But the fund had required more time and

energy than was originally planned, she said in a statement.

"I have managed to juggle my many other commitments ... in order to help the fund through a particularly difficult time, but now that it is in calmer waters and has a full-time chief executive starting shortly, I have asked Anthony Julius, chairman of the fund, to accept my resignation," she said.

TASE stocks have mixed trading day

Tel Aviv

Stocks on the TASE were mixed yesterday, with gains in Nice Systems Ltd. and Osem Investment Ltd. offsetting declines in insurance and chemicals companies.

Nice, a maker of voice and fax archiving equipment, rose 4.77 percent to NIS 13.8 as Solid ISG Research maintained its "strong buy" recommendation on the shares, and set a \$52 to \$58 price target on the company's American Depository Receipts, last quoted at \$36.75.

A 1.65% rise in Osem Investment Ltd., a food manufacturer, balanced other shares' declines, and the Maof Index of 24 largest companies ended down 0.20% at 353.40.

Nice and Osem, like most listed Israeli companies, are well managed. The quality of reporting and accounting is high," said Amnon Rubinstein, equity strategist at Santander Investment in London. "You've got lots of problems in emerging markets, a lot of black holes. All of a sudden Israeli companies are attractive."

Osem shares rose 1.6% to NIS 19.1. Bank shares rose for a third day, boosted by the Mizrahi movement's sale yesterday of 3.5% of United Mizrahi Bank Ltd., reflecting growing interest in Israeli banks.

Bank shares have risen in recent days after the government last week sold 35% of United Mizrahi, the country's fourth-largest bank,

at a higher-than-expected price, in a sale that was 4.5 times subscribed and initially raised \$162 million.

Bank Leumi's shares rose 0.76% to NIS 8.0, while Bank Hapoalim's shares rose 0.77% to NIS 11.3.

Among declining Maof stocks, Clal Insurance Enterprise Holdings Ltd., Israel's second largest insurer, fell 1.84% to NIS 42.7.

Asia

Japanese Stocks Rise on Falling Yen Japanese stocks rose as exporters such as Sony Corp. and Fuji Photo Film Co. capitalized on a weaker yen and boosted the Nikkei 225 index to its biggest one-day gain in a month.

Elsewhere, the Japanese currency's fall against the dollar sent most of the region's stocks tumbling. Benchmark indexes fell in Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Australia and South Korea.

The Nikkei rose 235.46 points, or 1.54%, to 15,530.17, its biggest one-day gain since May 11, led by Sony, Fuji and Pioneer Electronic Co. Exporters' profits rise as the dollars they earn overseas are worth more yen.

Hong Kong stocks fell in a storm-shortened session amid concern the yen's weakness would undermine efforts to stabilize regional economies and put pressure on China to devalue its currency.

In 90 minutes of trading, the benchmark Hang Seng index fell 195.17, or 2.3%, to a five-month



Maof 353.40 ▼ 0.20%

Dow Jones 9049 ▼ 0.23%

FTSE 5244.2 ▲ 0.46%

Nikkei 15530 ▲ 1.54%

low of 8,391.46, led by Hysan Development Co. and other real estate companies.

South Korean stocks fell for the first time in four days on concern a weakening yen will crimp exports of Korean companies, slowing the country's recovery from its first recession since 1980.

Samsung Electronics Co., Daewoo Heavy Industries Co. and other big exporters paced the decline as the yen weakened to a 7-year low of 141.74 to the dollar today.

"Foreign investors continued to flee the Korean market, pulling down the index, as the yen's weakness will eventually cause the won to slide," said Lee Jae Young, a fund manager at Citizens Investment Trust Co.

A weaker won would inflate the cost of repaying the \$67 billion of foreign currency debt owed by private and state-invested companies.

The benchmark Kospi index of 770 stocks fell 6.66, or 1.9%, to 339.22. Nearly two stocks fell for each that rose.

Singapore stocks fell for a fourth day, led by Cycle & Carriage Ltd. and Fraser & Neave Ltd., on concern profits will be hurt by a slowdown in the country's economy.

Europe

UK stocks were mixed as British Petroleum Plc followed oil prices down, while optimism interest rates have peaked offset concern slower economic growth will crimp corporate profits.

Thistle Hotels Plc saw the largest rise on the exchange after it said it has been approached by three possible bidders and an offer for the company may be made in four to five weeks.

"The economy is losing a bit of steam, while wage growth is fairly robust," said Mark Gardner, a fund advisor to Julius Baer Investments Ltd., which has \$41 billion worldwide. "There is a fear of stagnation." The benchmark FTSE 100 index fell 25.9 points, or 0.43%, to 6011.9, depressed by oil stocks amid doubts that efforts by oil-exporting countries to cut production will boost prices.

BP fell 19p to 908.5, while Shell Transport & Trading Co. dropped 7.75p to 443.5.

The broader FTSE 250 index rose 6.8 points to 5067.1, with Thistle Hotels leaping 39.5p to 240. The FTSE 350 index, a combination of the other two indexes, slid 9.6 points to 2926.2. (Bloomberg)

Wall Street

NEW YORK (AP) — Leading market indexes posted slim gains in New York yesterday, but most stocks fell in another hesitant session before today's congressional report by Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 19.68 points to 9,049.92. The loss halted a three-session, 265-point climb back toward May 13's record of 9,211.84.

Broader stock indexes rose, led by the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite, but declining issues outnumbered advanced reports.

With no major economic reports due until later in the week, trading was very cautious yesterday and Monday as investors grew leery of what Greenspan might say today.

Merck helped bolster the Dow for a second straight day, but American Express was the Dow's biggest decliner after gaining 4 1/2 points on Monday.

Overseas, Tokyo's Nikkei stock average rose 1.5 percent. Frankfurt's DAX index fell 0.2% and London's FTSE 100 fell 0.3%.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average fell 19.68 to 9,049.92. The Standard and Poor's 500 rose 2.71 to 1,118.43, and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index rose 12.99 to 1,800.76.

NYSE volume totaled 560.56 million shares as of 4 p.m. local time up from 533.68 million on Monday.

Pound up against dollar, deutsche mark

The British pound rose against the dollar and the deutsche mark after an increase in manufacturing output signaled UK growth remains healthy.

Manufacturing output rose 0.1 percent in April from March, better than forecasts for a 0.1% decline in a Bloomberg News poll. That compares with an 0.2% rise in March.

The report offered a degree of vindication to the Bank of England, which faced criticism after it raised its benchmark interest rate to 7.5% last week even as the economy showed signs of slowing. Stronger manufacturing also suggests the central bank need not cut rates so quickly.

"Last week's rate rise is giving considerable support to the pound" by boosting the money-market return on sterling deposits, said Neil MacKinnon, a director at the independent economic research firm Burke & MacKinnon. He expects the pound to continue trading above 2.90 marks in coming weeks.

The pound rose to \$1.6365 from \$1.6320 yesterday. It rose as high as 2.9168 marks and was recently at 2.9116, after slumping to 2.8968 before the 9:30 a.m. report. That compares with 2.9050 marks on Monday.

The Bank of England raised rates in six quarter-point steps over the last 13 months, most



Dollar 3.667 ▲ 0.24%

Basket 3.916 ▲ 0.22%

Mark 2.063 ▲ 0.11%

Sterling 5.994 ▲ 0.356%

recently last week, taking the benchmark rate to its highest level

since Nov. 1992.

"U.K. rates are high and they're going to remain this high for at least another six months, so sterling will also remain overvalued," said Ian Williams, director of Guinness Mahon & Co. Capital Markets. "We could easily see the pound go back to 2.91 marks."

Adding to the evidence of continued U.K. growth, Great Portland Estates Plc, Britain's sixth-largest property company, said 1998 net asset value rose a better-than-expected 24% as a boom in London's West End raised the value of its office and retail properties.

West End retail prices have risen on the back of strong consumer

spending and tourism, while office properties are benefiting from London's growth as a European financial center.

Great Portland has almost 75% of its portfolio in the West End district and in retail property.

To be sure, the outlook for the economy isn't one of runaway growth. Although April's gain meant manufacturing emerged from the recession it fell into during the first quarter, the Office for National Statistics said the underlying trend for manufacturers is still for little or no growth. In the year through April, manufacturing output fell 0.2%, after rising 0.4% in the year ended March.

Crude oil falls on lower world demand

Energy

Crude oil fell more than 1 percent after the International Energy Agency cut its 1998 estimate for world demand at a time when traders are skeptical that producers can cut supply enough to end a world oil glut.

The Paris-based IEA said second-quarter oil use will average 73 million barrels a day, down 510,000 barrels a day from its estimate last month. For the year, daily demand will be 100,000 barrels less at 75 million, as Asia's economies weaken, IEA said.

"It looks like things are just getting worse in Asia," said Scott Ryll, a trader at GSC Energy Corp. in Atlanta. "I don't know who's going to buy oil right now. My customers,

the end users, have bought about all they can. They've locked in prices as far as they can lock in."

In other markets, corn could be little changed while cotton rises. The Commodity Research Bureau index rose 0.36 to 213.69, while the energy-weighted Goldman Sachs Commodity Index lost 0.66 to 153.98.

Crude oil for July delivery fell as much as 23 cents to \$14.32 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Prices are 23% lower than a year ago.

Precious Metals

Gold for August delivery rose above \$300 an ounce for the first time in three weeks, rising as much as \$2.60, or 0.9%, to \$301.00 an

COMMODITIES



Gold \$297.85 ▲ 0.9%

Crude Oil \$14.10 ▼ 0.12%

CRB 213.64 ▲ 0.31%

once on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange. Speculation that the new European Central Bank, which holds its first official meeting today, may consider keeping a larger portion of its foreign exchange reserves in gold than forecast, is helping support

gold prices.

Some traders expect that the state could be about 27.5%, at the higher end of estimates that have ranged from 5% to 30%, with the average forecast closer to 15% to 20%.

Copper for July delivery rose as much as 1.35 cents, or 1.8%, to 77.85 cents a pound on the Comex division of the New York Mercantile Exchange.

A truckers slowdown that has cut mine output at Chile's second-largest mine has offset an averted mine strike at another Chilean copper mine.

Others

Corn could remain close to an 11-month low after a government report confirmed expectations that farmers are on track to reap the

second-largest crop in history.

After trading Monday, the US Department of Agriculture said 74% of corn fields stood in good or excellent condition as of Friday, compared with 76% a week earlier and in line with expectations. A year ago, only 65% of fields earned such high marks.

"We're looking at some big supplies," said Jason Roese, a broker at US Commodities Inc. in West Des Moines, Iowa. Still, with the crop not harvested until autumn, "we're a little cautious to be too bearish," Roese said. "The crop's not made yet."

Corn for December delivery, after the harvest, was little changed at \$2.39 a bushel, up 0.25 cent, since the close of pit trading Monday on the Chicago Board of Trade. (Bloomberg)

US bonds fall on Greenspan remarks

BONDS



US 30-year T-bill yield

5.8 no change

US bonds fell as traders braced for remarks from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan today, and as companies readied some \$11 billion of corporate bond sales in the days ahead.

"I don't see a big change in the market until at least tomorrow," said William Kirby, co-head of government bond trading at Prudential Securities Inc. "The risk is that Greenspan talks the market lower."

The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell 9/32, or \$2.81 per \$1,000 bond, to 104 19/32, pushing its yield up 2 basis points to 5.80 percent. The two-year note's yield rose 1 basis point to

5.58%.

Traders were reluctant to drive yields lower before Greenspan's testimony to Congress's Joint Economic Committee today. Bonds may also come under pressure as US West Inc., Simon DeBartolo Group Inc., and other companies sell at least \$11 billion of bonds this week or next, traders said.

Investors will study Greenspan's remarks for evidence he expects Asia's economic crisis to slow US growth and stifle inflation, averting the need for the Fed to raise interest rates.

"He may mention that the economy is still strong but the Asian

crisis is still going to take an effect," said Vincent Vetterano, head of government bond trading at Nomura Securities International Inc. "I don't see why he'd want to upset the apple cart." The Fed

may also stand pat with the view that any rate increase might worsen economic problems in Asia, Russia and elsewhere around the world, traders said.

The Fed last adjusted its target for overnight lending in March 1997, increasing it by 25 basis points to 5.5%. Fed policy-makers nine weeks ago adopted a bias toward raising rates, according to the minutes of the March Federal Open Market Committee meeting.

"It'll be interesting to see if Greenspan's primary focus is on the domestic economy or Asia," said Niru Devani, a fund manager who helps oversee about \$57 billion of assets at Threadneedle

Investment Managers. "That would give us a clue to his thinking on where rates might be headed."

Also weighing on bonds was a drop in the dollar against the Japanese yen, traders said. The US currency dropped from a seven-year high against the yen amid speculation finance officials from the Group of Seven industrialized nations may discuss measures to bolster the Japanese currency when they meet today.

That concern was sparked by comments from Japanese Vice Finance Minister Koji Tanami, who today said G-7 officials may exchange opinions.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.550	5.540	5.620	
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.190	2.280	2.700	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.990	0.190	0.590	
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.6.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.8906	3.9432	—	—	3.9158
U.S. dollar	3.6927	3.8913	3.57	3.75	3.8670
German mark	2.0449	2.0779	2.00	2.11	2.0636
Pound sterling	5.9367	6.0325	5.83	6.12	5.9944
French franc	0.5089	0.5198	0.59	0.63	0.5943
Japanese yen (100)	2.5905	2.6323	2.34	2.57	2.6132
Dutch florin	1.8143	1.8436	1.76	1.87	1.8307
British franc	2.4632	2.5050	2.42	2.54	2.4861
Swedish krona	0.4541	0.4716	0.45	0.48	0.4681
Norwegian krona	0.4885	0.4944	0.47	0.51	0.4810
Denmark krona	0.5369	0.5455	0.52	0.56	0.5418
Finnish mark	0.6729	0.6836	0.66	0.70	0.6792
Canadian dollar	2.4914	2.5316	2.44	2.57	2.5164
Australian dollar	2.1006	2.1500	2.12	2.23	2.1874
S. African rand	0.7096	0.7150	0.63	0.72	0.7104
Belgian franc (10)	0.9913	1.0073	0.97	1.08	1.0002
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9079	2.9539	2.85	3.00	2.9332
Italian lira (1000)	2.0758	2.1081	2.03	2.14	2.0845
Jordanian dinar	5.1083	5.1918	5.04	5.39	5.1821
Egyptian pound	1.0200	1.1200	1.03	1.12	1.1001
ECU	4.0287	4.0937	—	—	4.0858
Irish punt	5.1551	5.2383	5.06	5.32	5.2009
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*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

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English rugby rocked by sound of the '70s

There may be some football tournament about to start in France, but sporting life goes on elsewhere.

English rugby was at its lowest ebb on Sunday following the 76-0 mauling at the hands of Australia in Brisbane. There may have been extenuating circumstances — an English squad of 20 uncapped players to fill the gap left by the recommitment of a season full of wrangling — but to concede 11 tries unanswered in a Test is breaking new grounds in shame.

Captain Clive Woodward tried to be as upbeat as possible: "I was not expecting that. The game was gone by half-time. I think this was a freak result."

But the Australians, despite the win, are fuming. The two countries are scheduled to play a century Test in Sydney next year, but the Australian Rugby Union chief John O'Neill said the invitation would not be honored if England sent such a poor quality team. "We won't have them here under these conditions, we'd rather have a World team," O'Neill said.

Presumably, there would not be any England players on that team. The problem of the under-strength England line-up was the pressure put on the country's top players by their clubs not to tour. The English union appears to be taking a back seat while the club-versus-country issue goes on.

The Sydney Daily Telegraph newspaper went one further than O'Neill saying: "The 57 old farts of Twickenham, as one former captain described them, were too spineless to insist English clubs

London Calling



Mark Rivlin

release their best players."

This Saturday, England face New Zealand A with a certain Jonah Lomu using the game to test his fitness. Maybe the best option is for Woodward's sorry squad to test their skills against the New Zealand women's team.

It was a great shame the first cricket Test between England and South Africa was ruined by rain with the final day poised for an exciting finish.

For England there were many positive aspects which came out of the match, with a notable minus — the injury to fast bowler Darren Gough, whose finger was broken by an Alan Donald ball which lifted while the Yorkshire bowler was batting on Friday.

Gough is a resilient character, but his patience will be tested to the full as this game marked his return to the Test arena after missing out on the recent West Indies tour with a back injury.

This time Gough will be out for three weeks. In his absence, Dominic Cork restored his status as a Test all-rounder with 36 in England's first innings and a superb 5-93 haul when the tourists batted. The old Cork hallmarks of face paint and wild gesticulations to the umpire appear to have been dropped from his repertoire. His captaincy of Derbyshire has molded him into a more sober character. Man-of-the-match Michael Atherton also discovered a new lease of life after being demoted to the ranks of player, rather than captain.

Del Piero looks forward to comeback



Del Piero

SENILIS, France (AP) — Alessandro Del Piero, delighted to be off the injury list, said he does not feel disappointed over his expected exclusion from Italy's World Cup opener against Chile.

The young striker will be replaced by his former Juventus teammate Roberto Baggio in tomorrow's match at Bordeaux but is looking forward to regain his place on the starting 11 in the next game against Cameroon.

"I'm happy to be here, recovered, after fearing to miss the World Cup," Del Piero said at Italy's training camp yesterday.

Italy, a three-time World Champion, plays the African team on June 17 in its second match of Group B.

Considered the jewel of the

Italian team and a key to the Azurri fortunes in the World Cup, Del Piero healed a right thigh strain suffered in the Champions Cup final against Real Madrid but still is questionable form following 10 days of light training.

His exclusion from tomorrow's match with Chile had been suggested by coach Cesare Maldini on Sunday when he tested the offensive duo of Baggio and Christian Vieri in a tuneup against an amateur team.

Baggio, 31, defused controversy saying he traveled to France as Del Piero's substitute and that he was ready to sit on the bench once the "Golden Boy" is ruled fit.

Klinsmann not guaranteed but likely to start

Juergen Klinsmann is the captain of the German team with 103 caps. This doesn't guarantee him a place in the starting lineup, however, and Klinsmann is feeling the heat.

Perhaps never before has Germany come to a World Cup with four strikers who can all make an equal claim on a place in the starting 11.

"It's a healthy competition, we try very hard in practice and we take it very seriously," Klinsmann said.

"We respect each other a lot, but all of us want to show that we belong."

Besides Klinsmann, there is Oliver Bierhoff, who topped the Italian Serie A with 27 goals. Ulf Kirsten led the Bundesliga with 22, followed by Olaf Marschall, who notched 21 in 24 league matches.

Compared to such feats, Klinsmann had a quiet season. He moved in mid-season from Sampdoria Genoa to his former London club Tottenham, and was kept on the sidelines with ankle and jaw injuries that also forced him to miss several national team games.

But the 33-year-old German star bounced back strongly in the late stage of the season, scoring four goals in one game to rescue Tottenham from relegation.

Dutch captain may miss 1st game after injuring ankle

Dutch captain Frank de Boer may miss the Netherlands' first World Cup qualifying match after injuring his ankle in training, Dutch coach Guus Hiddink said yesterday.

De Boer, 27, twisted his left ankle Monday. He stood on the sidelines during yesterday's practice, his injured ankle bandaged.

No decision will be made until

Friday on whether De Boer can play in the Netherlands' opening World Cup Group E match Saturday against Belgium in St. Denis.

A left-footed defender, De Boer missed the Euro '96 tournament in England with a similar injury. He hobbled off the field at Amsterdam's Arena Stadium on Monday after falling during training.

Another injured Dutch player, Arsenal striker Dennis Bergkamp, went through light training yesterday as he fought to regain fitness in the wake of a six-week layoff caused by a hamstring injury.

Norway heavily favored vs. Morocco

Perfect preparations, no injuries and perhaps the most impressive warmup record of all World Cup teams.

Norway's "Drillos," fourth on FIFA's world rankings after winning their last three exhibitions over fellow Cup teams Denmark, Mexico and Saudi Arabia by a whopping combined score of 13-2, are heavily favored to win their first-ever meeting against Morocco on the opening day of the tournament today.

Norway scored only one goal in three games during a disappointing 1994 World Cup in the US. But it would be much more disappointing should they fail to make the second round this time.

Morocco's "Atlas Lions," also playing in the World Cup finals for the third time, were eliminated in the first round during the '94 Cup as well. But another early exit would not be a big surprise. The Moroccans, coached by former French manager Henri Michel, are clearly the underdogs in this group.

Scottish fans

bought non-existent tickets

Scottish soccer fans who bought tickets from unofficial outlets for Scotland's World Cup opener against Brazil in Paris today may have paid for tickets which don't exist and could be refused entry to the match.

The Independent newspaper reported yesterday that hundreds of Scottish fans who had paid for package deals including World Cup tickets had paid for tickets which did not exist.

The official SFA allocation for the Scotland versus Brazil game was 5,000 of 80,000 seats in the stadium.

Leicestershire, Essex reach Benson & Hedges Cup final

LONDON (Reuters) — Darren Maddy cruised to his third century in the Benson and Hedges Cup this year and helped take Leicestershire to the last final at Lords on July 11 after beating Surrey yesterday.

Leicestershire, winners of the first Cup in 1972, will meet Essex to decide the tournament, which is being withdrawn to reduce the number of one-day county cricket matches.

Maddy, who finished 120 not out, and Ben Smith put on 172 runs for the second wicket, pun-

ishing Surrey for their decision to bowl in the blistering wind.

When Smith went for 89, Trinidad's Phil Simmons hit a fast 40 to push the total above 300.

England's one-day captain Adam Hobbins was the most expensive bowler for Surrey, his eight overs going for 76 runs.

And all-rounder Chris Lewis dealt a blow to his former team by dismissing Test batsmen Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe and Mark Butcher in a spell of three for seven.

Surrey finished on 291 for eight. Essex beat Yorkshire by 95 runs

at Headingley, where it was so windy that balls could not be used for almost an hour.

Essex lost opener Darren Robinson to the first ball of the match but England batsmen Nasser Hussain led a recovery with a powerful 78.

Yorkshire made no recovery. Opener Michael Vaughan was out on the second ball and they were in trouble at 29 for three.

After a 40 from Darren Lehmann, they crumbled to spinners Peter Such and Paul Grayson and were all out for 163.

Venables back at Palace

LONDON (Reuters) — Former England coach Terry Venables returned as manager of his first club Crystal Palace yesterday and announced that his traveling days may be over.

Venables has become a leading international figure since leaving the south London club in 1981.

He has subsequently been in charge of Queen's Park Rangers, Barcelona, Tottenham Hotspur, England and Australia in the past 17 years but said he would be happy to stay at Selhurst Park for life to help Palace challenge Arsenal, Tottenham and Chelsea as the top team in the capital.

Venables, appointed by new Palace owner Mark Goldberg who completed a £22 million deal last week, said he was thrilled at returning to English club management after two years as national coach of Australia and chairman of Portsmouth.

The man who took Barcelona to the European Cup final and England to the European championship semifinals in 1996 said: "Palace are my first club and maybe my last. It is a fresh challenge and I am really looking forward to getting into the day-to-day job that I have so sorely missed."

"We realize how difficult it is to go up to the Premiership and stay there, but that is what we want to achieve."

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Last-minute instructions

Red Wings coach Scotty Bowman (r) eyes his charges intently. Detroit hosted the Washington Capitals last night in Game 1 of the NHL finals. (Reuters)

Bowman keeps Red Wings together

If hockey experts are correct, the Detroit Red Wings should not have too much trouble putting away the Washington Capitals for their second consecutive Stanley Cup championship. Which would signal a milestone for Detroit's Scotty Bowman, who would tie Toe Blake for most Stanley Cups won by a coach with eight.

But even if this happens, Bowman will keep his mentor, Blake, on a higher level than himself based on the fact that Blake needed less time to reach his total while Bowman is in his 24th season.

"I was in Montreal coaching the juniors when (Blake) was coaching the Canadiens and I got to know him when he first started in 1955," said Bowman, the winningest coach in NHL history with 1,057 regular-season victories and 190 in the postseason.

"He coached 13 years in the league and won eight Stanley Cups. I don't know if anybody can ever equal that or even get close to it. So, I don't think there is really that much comparison, the fact that I coached in the league 20-something years and he coached 13 years. (The NHL) may have had only six teams with only two series (in the playoffs) when he was coaching but they had the best players in the world on six teams."

When Detroit won the title last season and Bowman took

the time to skate around the ice holding the Stanley Cup, many people felt that he was ready to retire. Instead, Bowman returned and has the Red Wings

MY CALL

By LONNIE WHITE

back in their third championship series in four years.

With the same type of intensity that he had when he won his first Cup in 1973 while coaching the Canadiens, Bowman pushed the Red Wings hard this season and has his team primed to become the first back-to-back champion since the Pittsburgh Penguins in 1991-92.

"He's been consistent in terms of his approach and his desire to win," Detroit defenseman Larry Murphy said of Bowman. "He handled personnel throughout the year based on getting us ready to get back to the finals again."

Not only did Bowman have to keep together a team that lost the services of popular defenseman Vladimir Konstantinov because of a tragic auto accident last summer, he had to deal with Sergei Fedorov's holdout and eventual return.

Bowman kept the Red Wings rolling with his usual control that kept his team ready for anything. "The big thing with Scotty is as

a coach he has got an entire team that believes in him and that trusts him and you know, we don't have a single guy that ever sulks or questions any of his moves."

Detroit winger Brendan Shanahan said. "Sometimes he can do things that are unexplained and you might scratch your head, but we don't have anyone who takes that out on the ice with him."

"He throws adversity at you throughout the year and he challenges you. (The reason why) he might play you in different positions on a different line is that when you get to the playoffs ... and face intense scrutiny, you know that you haven't had a soft curb season."

That's why none of his players were shocked when, 20 minutes before Game 6 in the Red Wings' Western Conference finals series against the Dallas Stars, Bowman made line changes for the entire team.

A tactic he might have learned from Blake, who kept Bowman on his toes.

"I think he was way ahead of his time," Bowman said of Blake. "I used to watch him in those days and even though we didn't have the statistics we have today, he always knew who was playing well. He was one of the first coaches in the league to match up against the opposition and he was a fierce competitor."

(Los Angeles Times)



HARD DRIVING - Casey Martin. (Reuters)

Martin qualifies for US Open

CINCINNATI (AP) - Casey Martin overcame a balky cart and a double bogey on the 36th hole - one he feared would be his last - before qualifying for the US Open in a two-hole playoff Monday.

Martin sank a 25-foot birdie putt in the rain to clinch the fifth and final qualifying spot at Cloverbrook Country Club. He had failed his three previous attempts to make the Open, which will be held at the Olympic Club in San Francisco starting June 18.

"I'm going to fly around the Open. I don't think I'll need a cart. I'll be so pumped," he said, moments after winning the five-player playoff. "I'm winding putt found the middle of the cup on the par-4, 420-yard second hole. Martin figured this would wind up as a day he'd long regret. Martin, who won a court order to ride a cart because of a circulation problem with his right leg, took a while to adjust to a newfangled one-person cart brought in for the event. It had a different braking system than a standard cart and quit on his second hole when he accidentally kicked the power switch.

He had to walk two holes before the cart was revived. His second limp grew more pronounced during the last few holes of his afternoon round, when he was trying to hold his position among the leaders. He became angry with himself after his double bogey on the par-4, 420-yard third hole.

His shot went behind a tree, his approach came up short and he was pumped, falling to 2-under-par 138. He slammed the door of the cart and nearly elbowed a course official when he emerged, then went to sit in his car and cool off.

"On the last hole, I just hit six bad shots, took a double and was crushed," he said. "I'm just a second change as four others finished at 138 - Eric Johnson, Chris Riley, Perry Moss and Ryan Hovison."

Martin, Hovison and Moss shot par on the first playoff hole to stay in contention. Martin then sank one of his most pressure-packed putts to win it in a steady rain.

"I'm just kind of stunned," said Martin, who showed little emotion when the putt fell. "I was so disappointed after I finished (the 36th hole) that I kind of wrote it off. I'm shocked that I'm here." He thought that this qualifying attempt would end like the last three: falling in the final round. The dramatic finish Monday left him unsure how to react.

Though course officials had prepared for an influx of thousands of fans, a group of about 50 fans and reporters followed him around the cart. There was one near-mishap when his green and gray cart hit a bump and nearly clipped a course official on one hole.

Heading the end of his afternoon round, a news helicopter noisily circled for about two holes, drawing glares from golfers and fans. Martin waved at it, hoping it would go away.

"He's become accustomed to attention since he sued the PGA for the right to ride a cart. He knows that won't change at the Open, where he plans to keep a low profile. "I'm going to be the center of attention and I also won't be so," he said.

Braves rally in ninth to stun Red Sox

Marlins end skid with 17-inning win; McGwire cracks 29th

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Braves rallied for six runs in the ninth inning to stun the Boston Red Sox 7-6 Monday night, winning on Andruw Jones' one-out, run-scoring single.

Trailing 6-1, the Braves started their rally off closer Tom Gordon, who gave up RBI singles to Keith Lockhart and Chipper Jones. John Wasdin (3-3) then relieved and gave up a two-run double to Andres Galaraga and a bloop single by Ryan Klesko that drove in the tying run.

After Javy Lopez bunted pinch-runner Gerald Williams to second, Andruw Jones singled to left on an 0-2 pitch, and a sliding Williams beating Troy O'Leary's high throw to the plate.

Astros 9, Tigers 5
Carl Everett hit a two-run double to cap a five-run ninth inning that lifted Houston to a road win. Everett also homered for Houston, which is 3-1 in interleague play this season.

Indians 8, Pirates 0
Jim Thome hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs, and Bartolo Colon pitched a four-hitter for his second shutout and fourth complete game as Cleveland won at home.

Kenny Lofton started a third-inning rally with a perfect bunt that glanced off third base, and Thome ended it with a 431-foot shot off Chris Peters (1-1) into the second deck in right to break a scoreless tie.

Royals 8, Brewers 7
Jose Offerman homered and hit his league-leading 7th triple as host Kansas City won an interleague game that hardly felt like one.

The Brewers, who switched from the AL to the NL last November,

have been visiting Kansas City since 1970, and it was the 361st meeting between the two teams.

Mets 3, Devil Rays 0
Rick Reed took a perfect game into the seventh inning and finished with a three-hitter, and Mike Piazza homered to lead the Mets at Shea.

Cubs 8, Twins 1
Sammy Sosa tied a team record by homering in his fifth consecutive game and Jose Hernandez added a two-run shot as Chicago won its 10th straight.

The winning streak is the longest since 1970 for the Cubs, who are 14 games over .500 (38-24) for the first time since finishing the 1989 regular season 92-69.

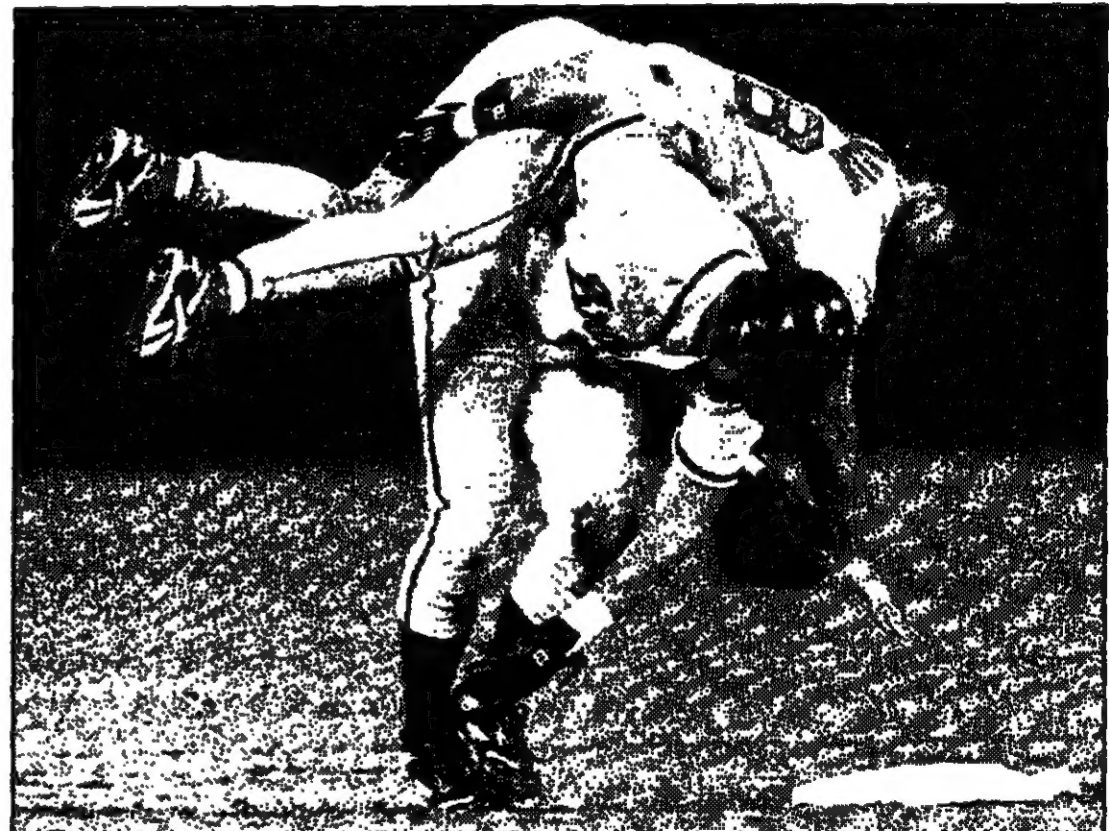
Sosa's homer, a solo shot in the third, was his 20th of the season and gave him 11 in his last 10 games. The other Cubs to homer in five straight games were Hack Wilson in 1928 and Ryne Sandberg in 1989.

White Sox 8, Cardinals 6
Mark McGwire hit his major league-leading 29th homer, but Jeff Abbott's three-run triple led the host White Sox over St. Louis.

McGwire, whose 13 homers in his last 17 games, raised his NL-leading RBI total to 73 with his two-run shot in the fourth.

His presence in the interleague game helped Chicago's sagging home attendance. The crowd of 23,087 marked only the third time the team has drawn more than 23,000 fans to Comiskey Park in 36 home dates.

Orioles 14, Phillies 8
Rafael Palmeiro went 3-for-5 with four RBIs, including a two-run homer, as visiting Baltimore



TURNING TWO - Soxos 2B Mike Benjamin is upended by Braves Ryan Klesko who unsuccessfully tries to break up a double play. (Reuters)

outslugged the Phillies.

Rangers 3, Rockies 1
Domingo Cedeño homered and drove in all three of visiting Texas runs, and Aaron Sele became the majors' second nine-game winner.

Marlins 4, Blue Jays 3 (7)
Todd Zeile singled home the winning run to cap a bizarre 17th

inning, and host Florida snapped an 11-game losing streak.

Toronto appeared to take a 4-3 lead in the 17th when Felipe Crespo scored from first on a two-out double by Carlos Delgado. But the Marlins argued that Crespo had missed third base, and plate umpire Tom Hallion upheld the appeal and ruled him out, ending the inning.

TV replays showed that Crespo appeared to touch the inside of third base on his way to the plate.

Padres 4, Reds 2
Joey Hamilton allowed two runs

in eight innings to break his career-worst six-game losing streak.

Athletics 7, Dodgers 3
Blake Stein, making just his sixth big-league start, allowed five hits and struck out 10 in 8 1/3 innings as Oakland won on the road.

Giants 4, Mariners 3
Denny Darwin kept the majors' best home run-hitting team idle and Rich Aurilia homered in his first at-bat against Randy Johnson as the Giants won their 10th straight, their longest winning streak since an 11-game run in 1991.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING - Rodriguez, Texas, .374; Williams, New York, .346; Segui, Seattle, .344; Trotter, Minnesota, .341; O'Neill, New York, .330; Dieter, New York, .329; Brosius, New York, .328.

RUNS - Griffey Jr., Seattle, 55; Dieter, New York, 53; Thome, Cleveland, 52; Durham, Chicago, 51; Grieve, Oakland, 49; Rodriguez, Seattle, 47; Gooden, Texas, 47.

RBI - McGwire, St. Louis, 77; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 57; Thome, Cleveland, 53; Easley, Detroit, 51; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 48; Rodriguez, Seattle, 48; O'Neill, New York, 47.

HITS - Rodriguez, Texas, 86; McCracken, Tampa Bay, 80; M. Vaughn, Boston, 79; Ensign, Anaheim, 78; Rodriguez, Seattle, 78; Grieve, Oakland, 76; Dieter, New York, 76; Segui, Seattle, 76; Ju Gonzalez, Texas, 76; O'Neill, New York, 76.

HOME RUNS - Griffey Jr., Seattle, 24; Rodriguez, Seattle, 21; Ju Gonzalez, Texas, 19; Cleveland, 16; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 16.

STOLEN BASES - Gooden, Texas, 23; Henderson, Oakland, 23; Lofton, Cleveland, 19; B. Hunter, Detroit, 18; Canseco, Toronto, 17; Knoblauch, New York, 16; Stewart, Toronto, 15.

PITCHING (8 Decisions) - Dwells, New York, 8-1, .889, 4.25; Cone, New York, 8-1, .569, 4.97; Williams, Toronto, 7-2, .778, 2.97; Sele, Texas, 9-3, .750, 3.33; Martinez, Boston, 6-2, .750, 3.11; Rogers, Oakland, 6-2, .750, 3.43; Finley, Anaheim, 6-2, .750, 2.22.

STRIKEOUTS - Johnson, Seattle, 115; Martinez, Boston, 106; C. Finley, Anaheim, 92; Clemens, Toronto, 87; Colon, Cleveland, 75; Erickson, Baltimore, 72; Sele, Texas, 71; G. L. Hughes, Detroit, 71.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING - Cleaver, New York, .354; McGwire, Chicago, .352; Bjornson, St. Louis, .348; Sosa, Chicago, .348; Gwynn, San Diego, .346; Bichette, Colorado, .341; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .340.

RUNS - Chaves, Atlanta, 54; Biggio, Houston, 54; Galaraga, Atlanta, 54; Glavine, Philadelphia, 53; McGwire, St. Louis, 50; Sosa, Chicago, 49; R. Palmeiro, Baltimore, 48.

RBI - McGwire, St. Louis, 73; Galaraga, Atlanta, 62; Castillo, Colorado, 60; Sosa, Chicago, 56; Alou, Houston, 52; G. Vaughn, San Diego, 52; Brogna, Philadelphia, 51.

HITS - Bichette, Colorado, 89; Glavine, Philadelphia, 87; McGwire, Chicago, 83; Sosa, Chicago, 81; Chaves, Atlanta, 79; Galaraga, Atlanta, 78; Biggio, Houston, 77.

HOME RUNS - McGwire, St. Louis, 29; Galaraga, Atlanta, 23; Castillo, Colorado, 22; G. Vaughn, San Diego, 21; Sosa, Chicago, 20; Chaves, Atlanta, 16; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 14; Bonds, San Francisco, 14.

STOLEN BASES - E. Young, Los Angeles, 25; Biggio, Houston, 23; Womack, Pittsburgh, 21; Renteria, Florida, 18; S. Snyers, Cincinnati, 14; DeShields, St. Louis, 14; R. White, Montreal, 12.

PITCHING (8 Decisions) - G. Maddux, Atlanta, 8-2, .818, 1.89; Millwood, Atlanta, 8-2, .800, 4.07; Schmitz, Pittsburgh, 8-2, .800, 3.51; Glavine, Atlanta, 8-2, .800, 2.37; Lima, Houston, 7-2, .778, 2.93; Wood, Chicago, 6-2, .750, 2.79; Tapia, Chicago, 6-3, .727, 4.09.

STRIKEOUTS - Schilling, Philadelphia, 134; Wood, Chicago, 94; Stollenmeyer, St. Louis, 93; Ramirez, Los Angeles, 85; Reynolds, Houston, 82; K. Brown, San Diego, 76; G. Lardner, Atlanta, 76.

SAVES - N. San Francisco, 18; Hoffman, San Diego, 17; Shaw, Cincinnati, 17; Beck, Chicago, 16; B. Wagner, Houston, 15; Urbina, Montreal, 14; J. Franco, New York, 13.

INTERLEAGUE

Pittsburgh 000 000 000-0 4 2
Cleveland 003 002 000-0 15 9

New York 020 010 000-3 7 8
Peters, Orelowitz (8), Christiansen (6), J. Martinez (7) and Kendall, Colon and S. Alomar.

W-Colon 6-4, L-Peters, 1-4, HR-Cleveland, 7-3, L-D. Springer, 2-10, HR-New York, Piazza (11).

Tampa Bay 000 000 000-0 3 2
New York 020 010 000-3 7 8

Boston 010 100 000-4 12 0
Atlanta 100 000 000-7 11 1

Low, Mahay (7), Corp (8), Gordon (9), Wesson (8) and Vazquez, Glavine, Cather (7), Embree (9) and J. Lopez, W-Atlanta, 1-0, L-Jordan, 2-3.

Houston 100 000 000-0 14 0
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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Avner Birn leads the Israel Camerata Jerusalem in a concert of music by Handel and Vivaldi with soloists soprano Linda Perillo, countertenor Stephen Wallace, tenor Joseph Cornwell and bass Rudolf Pienay, as well as the Rheinische Kantorei. Tonight in Rehovot, Friday (2 p.m.), Saturday (9 p.m.) and Sunday (8:30 p.m. unless otherwise stated) at the Tel Aviv Museum and next Monday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (9 p.m.).

Tonight is your last chance to hear the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra perform Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* in concert form at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv (8:30 p.m.) under the baton of Daniel Oren and with singers from all over the world.

Noam Sheriff leads the symphony Orchestra and chamber choir of the Tel Aviv Rubin Academy in music by Mozart and Mahler tonight (8:30) at the Noga Theater in Jaffa in a special concert for the LBI fund for soldiers' welfare.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Blue Heart consists of two plays by UK playwright Caryl Churchill, both comedies with a deeply serious core. *Heart's Desire* is about what happens when a family awaits the return of their daughter after a number of years in Australia. *Blue Heart* shows a con-man at work, convincing elderly women he's their long lost son. Both plays are directed by Max Stafford Clark, who has been called the finest director of new writing. Both plays are part of the Israel Festival. Tonight in Rebecca Crown at 9 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***THE WEDDING SINGER—Light as a feather and about as nourishing, this is a silly but entertaining romantic comedy that stars Adam Sandler as a suburban crooner who makes a living serenading newlyweds at a local reception hall, and Drew Barrymore as a cute waitress engaged to marry a big lug of a junk-bond trader. Director Frank Coraci and screenwriter Tim Herlihy understand the trifling nature of their material and they do a good job of keeping things bubbly and pro-



Soprano Linda Perillo sings Handel and Vivaldi tonight in Rehovot.

portional. Much of the humor here comes from the picture's comic-book approach to its time frame. The year is 1985, the clothes are tacky and everyone's hair looks awful. And though it is a bit disconcerting to see such recent fads already treated as the stuff of ancient history, the filmmakers' exaggerated approach to their setting feels necessary. The story alone is too slight to sustain an entire picture, and by adding a bit of polyester sparkle, they give themselves more room to play. (Parental guidance suggested)

POP

HELEN KAYE

The ever-inventive Shlomi Goldenberg has arranged a tribute to the late Frank Sinatra called *My Way*. He'll be on saxophone with Kobi Ehrlich on piano, Oded Goldschmidt on bass, Shash Haziza on drums and singers Shelli Allen, Vered Dekel, Amalia Paniel and Dani Sagal, among others. Tonight in the Upper Cellar at Beit Lessin at 10 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News flash
8:51 News Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 English
9:00 Science
9:25 English
9:40 Mathematics
9:55 Geography
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 Science
11:00 Environmental Studies
12:10 Scientific Literature
12:30 Music
13:00 Art
13:30 Animation

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Eilat and Lily and Zap
15:35 X Men
16:00 Boy Meets World
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:59 New Evening
17:35 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

17:45 News
18:00 Animation
18:45 Amores
19:30 From Day To Day

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:15 France '98
18:15 News Bulletin
20:35 The Gregory Hines Show
20:45 Comedy series about a widow bringing up his 12-year-old son.
21:00 News
21:05 Junior '98
00:00 News
00:05 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

5:45 Today's programs
5:55 On the Edge of the Shell
6:00 Rupert Bear
6:30 Choco with Tel-Ad
6:45 Coffee with Tel-Ad
8:00 The Third Time
8:55 Thirty Something
10:00 Home of the Brave
11:40 Empty Nest
12:05 Brotherly Love
12:30 Amazing Stories
12:30 My Secret Identity
13:30 Junior News
14:00 Home and Away
14:30 Tick Tack
15:00 Meeting Point
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rachel
17:30 Sport TV
18:00 Everybody Loves Raymond
18:30 Before All
20:00 News
20:30 Ramat Aviv Gimmel
21:15 Gov Nitz
22:35 The X Files
23:30 Movie
00:00 News
00:05 Homicide - cont.
00:30 Edinburgh Isn't Waiting For Me
00:35 Comedy about an Israeli homosexual group at the Edinburgh Festival
1:15 The Red Sea Jazz Festival - Yoram Avishai
2:50 On the Edge of the Shell

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Eilat: Wonderful
7:30 Celeste
8:00 One Life to Live
8:45 The Young and the Restless
9:00 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Dulce Amor (pt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:00 News Luminette
14:00 Bewitched
14:25 I Dream of Jeannie
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Ridge Judy
16:00 Dulce
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 The Other Half
18:00 Thelma King (pt)
18:30 CBS News
18:50 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills
20:10 (pt)
20:25 Mercedes Place
21:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
21:30 Festival
22:00 Mad About You
22:30 Seinfeld (pt)
23:40 Ricki Lake (pt)
23:50 Law and Order
24:00 Babylon 5
1:30 Love Boat

JORDANTV (31)

(unconfirmed)

18:00 Holy Koran
18:10 Mr. Bogus
18:30 Arsen Lupin
19:30 CBS News
18:00 The Young and the Restless
19:40 Beverly Hills
20:10 (pt)
20:25 Mercedes Place
21:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines
21:30 Festival
22:00 Mad About You
22:30 Seinfeld (pt)
23:40 Ricki Lake (pt)
23:50 Law and Order
24:00 Babylon 5
1:30 Love Boat

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 War and Remembrance (1989)
12:30 CBS News
13:15 The Royal Bed
(1931) - a king has to deal with royal affairs and his own secret intentions of marrying a

MIDDLE EAST TV (2427)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
16:00 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Gerbert
17:23 Creation Station
17:45 Mort & Phil
18:10 Jack Hanna
18:35 Wait Till You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News
20:00 News (Arabic)
20:00 Stockard Channing
20:25 Newhart
20:50 Movie: Deadly
21:00 Junior News
22:30 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Animation
16:45 Amores
17:30 From Day To Day
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 Arabic News
19:30 Talkshow
20:00 News
20:45 Scent of Mint
21:15 News Room
21:30 Junior News
22:30 Entertainment Now

CHILDREN (6)

6:30 Oscar and Friends
8:10 Celeste
9:20 Surprise Garden
9:40 Oliver Twist
10:00 The Smurfs
10:35 Ninja Turtles
11:00 Star Trek: Voyager
11:25 Soul Music
11:50 Animaniacs
12:20 Different World
12:50 Nancy Drew
13:15 Secretion Bears
13:30 Theo
13:40 Barney
14:05 Arthur
14:30 The Smurfs
14:55 Ninja Turtles
15:30 Bobbly World
15:55 Space Gools
16:25 Animaniacs
16:50 Family Matters
17:10 Nancy Drew
17:45 Sliders
18:35 The Secret World of Alex
19:00 Nick Flano
19:30 Family Matters
19:50 Married with Children
20:15 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
20:45 Full House
21:10 Beverly Hills
21:20

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Antonio 8 Jane (1991) - quirky British movie about the friendship between two children who are complete opposites: one is unattractive yet adventurous, the other is sleek and sophisticated. Directed by Peter Jackson.
22:30 The Wedding Singer 5, 7:30, 9:45
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McGwire hits 29th

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Venables returns to Palace

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Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Favre takes part in FBI sting

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre cooperated with an FBI sting operation that resulted in two men being charged with selling more than 1,000 phony Favre autographs, a prosecutor said Monday.

"Brett feels bad about the whole incident — and he really feels bad for the little kids who thought they were getting real autographs," said Joe Sweeney, Favre's marketing agency.

Biskupic said the sting operation started after authorities got a tip last year that Ron Marth, a sports memorabilia dealer from suburban Mequon, was selling phony Favre autographs.

An undercover officer gave Marth 50 photos of Favre and asked if he could get the quarterback to sign them.

Even though Favre didn't sign any photos, Marth returned the 50 photos to the officer with "Brett Favre 4" scrawled on them.

Favre, shown the autographs, said they were not his.

Marth, 53, has pleaded guilty to fraud charges in exchange for a one year sentence in prison.

SCOREBOARD

Swimmer Mickey Hallika won his third gold medal in the Grand Prix circuit, in Cannes yesterday. Hallika finished first in the 400 meter individual medley, setting a national mark of 4:22.10.



Today at the World Cup:
Group A
Brazil-Scotland St. Denis
18:30 (Channel 1, Eurosport)
Morocco-Norway Montpellier
22:00 (Channel 1, Eurosport)

ST. DENIS (AP) — When Ronaldo taps the ball off the center spot today, the biggest and richest World Cup in history will begin. Brazilians, who have played in every Cup and won four of them, know how special it is.

"We must understand this moment," says Milan midfielder Leonardo. "I want to make history."

Brazil and Scotland write the first chapter of the 1998 World Cup when they meet at 18:30 (Israel time) at the Stade de France in St. Denis, north of Paris.

Over the next 33 days, a record 32 national teams will compete in the last World Cup of the century. Defending champion Brazil is

More World Cup, Page 17

the solid favorite to beat Scotland. The team has been ranked No. 1 in the world by FIFA since 1994 and is spearheaded by 21-year-old forward Ronaldo, twice voted FIFA Player of the Year.

Scotland's first priority is to stop Brazil displaying its renowned attacking prowess.

"We have to lift ourselves to another level and show we can compete against Brazil," said midfielder John Collins, who will win his 50th cap today. "We will need a superb performance today as well as in the other two games if we are to progress to the next round."



BOOTING UP — Brazilian star Ronaldo gets set for opener against Scotland at Stade du France in St. Denis today.

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo draws from a talent pool that is the envy of his rivals. When 1994 World Cup hero Romario was ruled out of the tournament last week with a calf injury, another star from four years ago, Bebeto, moved into the spot.

Waiting in the wings, ready to fly, are Fiorentina forward Edmundo and 20-year-old phenomenon Denilson of Spain's Real Betis.

Zagallo has changed the team's style from a talent pool that is the envy of his rivals. When 1994 World Cup hero Romario was ruled out of the tournament last week with a calf injury, another star from four years ago, Bebeto, moved into the spot.

Waiting in the wings, ready to fly, are Fiorentina forward Edmundo and 20-year-old phenomenon Denilson of Spain's Real Betis.

But Brazil's seemingly relentless march to the title recently has faltered. A shaky defense and injuries

center back Aldair was only cleared to play late yesterday — could yet derail the Brazilian express.

The team lost its last home game 1-0 to archrival Argentina, and warmup games against Spain's Atletico Bilbao and tiny Andorra weren't much use to test the Brazilians.

Team coordinator Zico, a veteran of three Cups, wants to lower expectations.

"We won't be 100 percent in the first game, but we'll pick up steam as we go," he said. "A tie won't be the end of the world."

Scotland has faced Brazil three times in the World Cup: A 0-0 tie in 1974 was followed by a 4-1 loss in 1982 and a 1-0 defeat in 1990 — when rookie goalie Taffarel made a miraculous save to guarantee the win.

Defender Colin Calderwood said the Scots won't leave it up to

one player to stop Ronaldo. "It is a team responsibility. That is how we are approaching it," he said. "He is someone that we will look out for, but we are not about to concentrate all our efforts on one player."

Teammate Gordon Durie is also in a determined mood. "We must go for the throat," Durie said. "If we sit in and try and defend, they have players who can really destroy you."

Rodman goes AWOL ... again

Coach: He's not normal, but he's great at what he does



CHICAGO (AP) — His overnight trip to Las Vegas after Game 1 wasn't nearly as outrageous as his Mormon bashing last year. It's been tame stuff for the poster boy for bad behavior. He needed a really good antic, something that screamed Dennis Rodman. And he came through Monday, missing practice and the mandatory NBA Finals media session.

Rodman, who was fined \$10,000 by the NBA and probably will be fined by the Chicago Bulls, was seen Monday night with Hulk Hogan attending a wrestling match in Auburn Hills, Michigan.

He declined to talk to a reporter at the match, staying in a luxury box at The Palace.

He was with World Championship Wrestling president Eric Bischoff and wrestlers Hulk Hogan, Bret Hart and a 7-foot-4, 510-lb grappler billed as the "The Giant," who defended Rodman's absence from the Bulls.

"The beautiful thing about Dennis is that he's

the epitome of a free spirit," said The Giant, whose real name is Paul Wight II. "If the Bulls try to control him from doing things like this, it would be like cutting off Samson's hair."

"I talked to Dennis and he did not speak," coach Phil Jackson said. "He said to my assis-

Game 4 of the finals is tonight in Chicago. (4 a.m. Thursday Israel time, Channel 5) will provide live coverage. The Bulls lead 2-1.

stant trainer he didn't think he could make it down here in time for the press conference. I asked him, 'Dennis, what should I say to the press?' and he hung up on me."

Only the tattooed and multi-hued one could top the Bulls' complete humiliation of the Jazz in Game 3. So what if the Bulls held the Jazz to 54 points, the lowest point total since the inception of the shot clock in 1954? Who cares if Utah looks beat and a sixth title is within Chicago's reach? So what if John Stockton and Karl Malone are getting weary? None of that matters, not when Rodman is wiggling out again.

"It's very frustrating at this time," Scottie Pippen said. "But you don't want to carry that

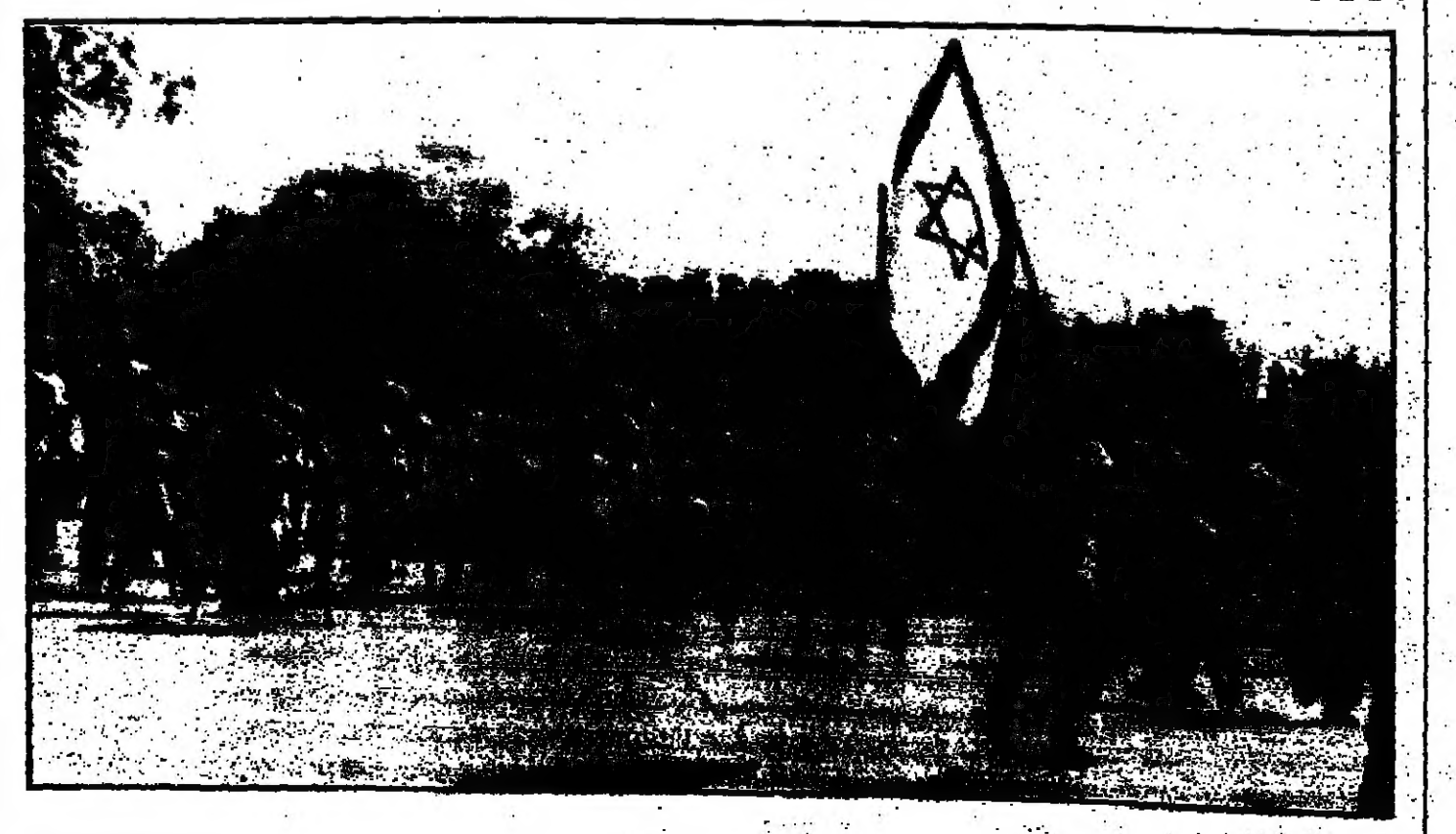
into the next time, you don't want to carry that into the next practice. You want the team chemistry to stay as strong as possible. Especially the situation we're in, we don't want Dennis taking the focus away from the team."

Accepting someone's quirks is one thing, but Rodman brings a whole new meaning to the word eccentric. There's his multicolored hair, now dyed in a fetching, green-and-black camouflage design. There's his landscape of tattoos and pierced body parts.

But more than anything, there's his behavior, which he seems to bring to new lows in the playoffs. Last year, it was Mormon bashing. This year, it's time management.

He waltzes in a half-hour late for home games. He disappears to the locker room early in each half — supposedly to keep his muscles warm — forcing Jackson to send a trainer to fetch him so he can make a grand entrance. A two-day birthday bender left him too pooped to practice in the second round. And now this.

"We couldn't have a society that acted like Dennis," Jackson said. "There would be nobody having lanes in the freeway, you couldn't queue up anywhere. You'd have to be disorderly. Dennis is not a normal person in our society, but he's great in what he does here."



All systems go
Some 115 children from ILAN — the Israel Foundation for Handicapped Children — engage in the Cedric Coco Memorial Wheelchair Marathon in Ramat Gan Sunday.

AIR CANADA

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THE WEATHER

http://www.accuweather.com

ISRAEL

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Haifa 28/20
Tel Aviv 29/19
Jerusalem 29/14
Beersheba 29/16
Eilat 37/23

Israel: Mostly sunny today. High 25-37. Mainly clear tonight. Lows 10-24. Sunny and warm tomorrow. Highs 27-35.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

London 16/15
Paris 17/15
Berlin 22/14
Vienna 22/17
Budapest 32/18
Rome 27/13
Athens 29/19
Istanbul 28/17
Moscow 31/19

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Ariel	31/18	30/19	30/19	31/18
Beersheba	29/16	29/16	29/16	29/16
Dead Sea	30/21	30/21	30/21	30/21
Eilat	37/23	37/23	37/23	37/23
Haifa	28/20	28/20	28/20	28/20
Jerusalem	29/14	29/14	29/14	29/14
Katmon	30/18	30/18	30/18	30/18
Nesher	29/14	29/14	29/14	29/14
Tel Aviv	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19
Tiberias	30/21	30/21	30/21	30/21

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today High/Low	Thursday High/Low	Friday High/Low	Saturday High/Low
Amsterdam	17/12	16/11	16/11	16/11
Beijing	31/18	31/18	31/18	31/18
Berlin	22/14	22/14	22/14	22/14
Brussels	18/11	18/11	18/11	18/11
Cairo	30/21	30/21	30/21	30/21
Chicago	24/15	24/15	24/15	24/15
Frankfurt	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14
Hong Kong	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19
Johannesburg	19/08	19/08	19/08	19/08
London	16/15	16/15	16/15	16/15
Los Angeles	27/17	27/17	27/17	27/17
Madrid	27/13	27/13	27/13	27/13
Moscow	31/19	31/19	31/19	31/19
New York	21/10	21/10	21/10	21/10
Paris	17/15	17/15	17/15	17/15
Peking	31/18	31/18	31/18	31/18
Rio de Janeiro	28/18	28/18	28/18	28/18
Rome	27/13	27/13	27/13	27/13
Sydney	19/08	19/08	19/08	19/08
Tokyo	27/17	27/17	27/17	27/17
Toronto	21/10	21/10	21/10	21/10
Vancouver	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Washington	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12
Zurich	19/08	19/08	19/08	19/08